UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(3)/10
30 August 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Third session
Recife, 15-26 November 1999
Item 10(b) of the provisional agenda

GLOBAL MECHANISM

CONSIDERATION OF, WITH A VIEW TO ADOPTING, THE REVISED DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Note by the secretariat

1. By decision 24/COP.1, paragraph 3, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the secretariat, in consultation with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), as well as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, to develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the COP and the appropriate body or organization on the Global Mechanism (GM) for consideration and adoption at the second session of the COP.

2. The COP also requested the secretariat and IFAD, in consultation with the UNDP and the World Bank, in developing such MOU, to take fully into account document ICCD/COP(1)/5 and other related documents, including ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1.

3. In conformity with decision 24/COP.1, a draft memorandum of understanding was proposed to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its second session (ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1).

4. By decision 19/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties took note of the draft memorandum of understanding and requested the secretariat to continue consultations on the text, in order to ensure that comments made by Parties were taken into account, and to submit a revised draft of the memorandum of understanding for consideration and decision by the Conference of the Parties at its third session.

5. The Conference of the Parties, by the same decision, decided also to transmit to its third session the draft decision ICCD/COP(2)/L.19 submitted by Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

6. Following consultations with the concerned Parties and IFAD, a revised draft of the MOU was prepared by the secretariat. The new text was approved by the Executive Board of IFAD at its session on 28 and 29 April 1999.

7. In accordance with decision 19/COP.2 of the Conference of the Parties, the draft memorandum of understanding and draft decision ICCD/COP(2)/L.19 are annexed, for consideration and decision by the Conference of the Parties (see annexes I and III, respectively), together with the text of decision 19/COP.2 (annex II).

Annex I

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT REGARDING THE MODALITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, dated _____, between the Conference of the Parties (hereinafter called "the Conference") of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (hereinafter called "the Convention" or "CCD") and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (hereinafter called "the Fund" or "IFAD") regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism.

WHEREAS the Conference was required, in accordance with Article 21, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Convention, to identify at its first ordinary session, an organization to house the Global Mechanism established under Article 21, paragraph 4, and whereas the Fund submitted a revised offer to house the Global Mechanism, contained in Appendix II of the document ICCD/COP(1)/5 and supplemented by document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.3;

WHEREAS the Conference, in paragraph 1 of its decision 24/COP.1, taken at its first session, selected the Fund to house the Global Mechanism established under Article 21, paragraph 4, of the Convention;

WHEREAS the Conference, in paragraphs 1 and 2 of its decision 25/COP.1, also taken at its first session, decided that, in support of the functions of the Global Mechanism, the organization to house the Global Mechanism shall, as the lead organization, fully cooperate with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank and other relevant international organizations; and

WHEREAS the Conference, in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its decision 24/COP.1, requested the secretariat of the Convention, in consultation with the Fund, UNDP and the World Bank, to develop a memorandum of understanding between the Conference and an appropriate body of the Fund;

NOW THEREFORE it is hereby understood that the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism will be as follows:

I. FUNCTIONS OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM

In carrying out its mandate, under the authority and guidance of the Conference, the Global Mechanism will, in accordance with paragraph 2 of decision 24/COP.1 of the Conference, perform the functions described in the annex to that decision. As the housing institution, the Fund will support the Global Mechanism in performing these functions in the framework of the mandate and policies of the Fund.

II. STATUS OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM WITHIN THE FUND

A. Separate identity of the Global Mechanism

While the Global Mechanism will have a separate identity within the Fund, it will be an organic part of the structure of the Fund directly under the President of the Fund.

B. Resources of the Global Mechanism

The resources of the Global Mechanism will comprise the following:

(a) Amounts received from allocations of the core budget of the Convention by the Conference to meet the administrative and operational expenditures of the Global Mechanism. These amounts will be held by the Fund upon receipt in an account termed "Core Budget Administrative Account";

(b) Amounts contributed voluntarily by multilateral and bilateral donors as well as other sources, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to meet the administrative and operational expenditures of the Global Mechanism and remuneration to the Global Mechanism for services rendered to a specific donor or group of donors. Such amounts will be held by the Fund upon receipt in an account termed "Voluntary Contributions Administrative Expenses Account"; and

(c) In accordance with section 4(f) of the annex to decision 24/COP.1 of the Conference, amounts made available for the use, as requested and appropriate, of the Global Mechanism ("Global Mechanism's own resources") for its functioning and activities from bilateral and multilateral resources through trust fund(s) and/or equivalent arrangements established by the Fund, including the proceeds of cost-sharing arrangements with the Global Mechanism. All these amounts will be held by the Fund upon receipt in an account termed "Special Resources for CCD Finance (SRCF) Account". The Fund will provide a grant contribution as part of the initial capitalization of the SRCF Account and seek matching financing from interested donors, taking into account the offer made by IFAD at the first ordinary session of the Conference in paragraph 48 of document ICCD/COP(1)/5.

C. Management of the Global Mechanism resources

With respect to the funds allocated from the core budget of the Convention and received by the Fund under (a) above, the rules of procedure and financial rules adopted by the Conference will apply to the transfer to IFAD of the said funds. With respect to the funds received by IFAD under (a), (b) and (c) above, all these amounts will be received, held and disbursed and the said accounts will be administered by the Fund in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Fund, including those applicable to the management of the Fund's own supplementary funds (trust funds).

D. Management of the Global Mechanism

The Managing Director of the Global Mechanism (hereinafter called "the Managing Director") will be nominated by the Administrator of UNDP and appointed by the President of the Fund. The Managing Director, in discharging his or her responsibilities, will report directly to the President of IFAD. The Managing Director will cooperate with the Executive Secretary of the CCD pursuant to decision 9/COP.1.

III. RELATIONSHIP OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM TO THE CONFERENCE

A. Accountability to the Conference

(1) The Global Mechanism will function under the authority of the Conference and be fully accountable to the Conference.

(2) The chain of accountability will run directly from the Managing Director to the President of the Fund to the Conference of the Parties. The Managing Director will submit reports to the Conference on behalf of the President of the Fund.

(3) The Conference will provide policy and operational guidance as necessary, including guidance resulting from the review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism to take place at its third ordinary session in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 7 of the Convention.

(4) The Managing Director will be responsible for preparing the programme of work and budget of the Global Mechanism, including proposed staffing, which will be reviewed and approved by the President of the Fund before being forwarded to the Executive Secretary of the Convention for consideration in the preparation of the budget estimates of the Convention, in accordance with the financial rules of the Conference.

(5) The budget estimates for the Global Mechanism, which will be shown in a separate section of the Convention budget, may include administrative and operational expenditures to be financed both from the core budget of the Convention, and, if appropriate, from the Voluntary Contributions Administrative Expenses Account.

(6) The Conference will approve the programme of work and budget of the Global Mechanism, authorize the Executive Secretary to transfer resources from the General Fund of the Convention to the Fund for all or a portion of the Global Mechanism's approved operating expenses and reimburse the United Nations for any administrative support costs incurred in this process.

(7) The Fund will, as soon as practicable following the end of the financial year of the Convention, provide the Conference with an audited financial statement of the Core Budget Administrative Account in accordance with the Fund's normal audit procedures.

B. Reporting to the Conference

The Managing Director, on behalf of the President of the Fund, will submit a report to each ordinary session of the Conference on the activities of the Global Mechanism. Such reports which will be submitted to the Executive Secretary for circulation to the Conference, will encompass the following:

(a) The operations and activities of the Global Mechanism, including the effectiveness of its activities in promoting the mobilization and channelling of the substantial financial resources referred to in section 4(a) of the annex to decision 24/COP.1 of the Conference;

(b) An assessment of the future availability of funds for implementation of the Convention, as well as proposals for effective ways and means of providing such funds; and

(c) The activities of the Fund, UNDP and the World Bank as well as other relevant organizations in supporting the Global Mechanism.

IV. COLLABORATIVE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. General collaborative arrangements

The Fund will, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of decision 25/COP.1 of the Conference, fully cooperate with UNDP and the World Bank to proceed with, actively pursue and develop further the collaborative institutional arrangements described in document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1, including the establishment of a Facilitation Committee. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of decision 24/COP.1, the Facilitation Committee will include the Executive Secretary as its member.

B. Cooperation with the Convention secretariat

(1) The Fund and the secretariat of the Convention will cooperate and exchange on a regular basis views and experiences necessary to facilitate the effectiveness of the Global Mechanism in assisting the Parties to implement the Convention.

(2) In accordance with paragraph 5 of decision 24/COP.1 of the Conference, the Fund will work out with the secretariat of the Convention appropriate arrangements for liaison and cooperation between the secretariat and the Global Mechanism in order to avoid duplication and to enhance the effectiveness of Convention implementation in accordance with their respective roles in implementation. Such collaboration between the Managing Director and the Executive Secretary will ensure the continuity and coherence of existing and future programmes of the Fund and the CCD.

C. Cooperation with other relevant organizations

The Fund will, in accordance with paragraph 6 of decision 24/COP.1 of the Conference and paragraph 4 of decision 25/COP.1, encourage active support for the Global Mechanism, as well as the establishment or strengthening of programmes to combat desertification in affected developing countries, by relevant institutions, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Food Programme (WFP), and by regional and subregional organizations and regional development banks such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Asian Development Bank (AsDB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), as well as interested non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

V. FIELD OFFICE SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL MECHANISM

The Fund will make appropriate arrangements to obtain supporting services from the United Nations country team, operating under the leadership of the United Nations resident coordinators within the framework of the resident coordinator system.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Global Mechanism will be located at the headquarters of the Fund in Rome, where it shall enjoy full access to all of the administrative infrastructure available to the Fund offices, including appropriate office space, as well as personnel, financial, communications and information management services. Any direct costs and associated service charges reimbursable to IFAD will be reflected in the budget of the Global Mechanism.

VII. FINAL PROVISIONS

A. Entry into operation

The present Memorandum of Understanding will enter into operation immediately upon its approval by the Conference and the Fund.

B. Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding

The Conference and the Fund may enter in such supplementary arrangements for the implementation of the present Memorandum of Understanding as may be found desirable.

C. Termination

The present Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated at the initiative of the Conference or the Fund with prior written notice of at least one year. In the event of termination, the Conference and IFAD will jointly reach an understanding on the most practical and effective means of carrying out any responsibilities assumed under the present Memorandum of Understanding.

D. Amendment

The present Memorandum of Understanding may be revised by mutual consent in writing between the Conference and the Fund.

E. Interpretation

If differences arise in the interpretation of the present Memorandum of Understanding, the Conference and the Fund shall reach a mutually acceptable solution on the basis of the English text thereof.

FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Signed by: _____
Executive Secretary

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Signed by: _____
President

Annex II

Decision 19/COP.2

Memorandum of understanding
between the Conference of the Parties to
the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and
the International Fund for Agricultural Development
regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the
Global Mechanism

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Fund for Agricultural Development regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism1/, jointly prepared by the secretariat of the Convention and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and requests the secretariat of the Convention to continue consultations on the text of the draft memorandum of understanding, in order to ensure that comments by Parties are taken into account, and to submit a revised draft of the memorandum of understanding for consideration and decision by the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

2. *Decides* to transmit to its third session the draft decision ICCD/COP(2)/L.19 submitted by Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China;

3. *Calls upon* all those to whom the draft memorandum of understanding is addressed to act, pending its entry into operation, as if it were already in effect.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

1/ ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1, annex.

Annex III

Memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund for Agricultural Development regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism

Indonesia*/: draft decision

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 24/COP.1 on the organization to house the Global Mechanism and agreement on its modalities,

Having considered the draft memorandum of understanding with the International Fund for Agricultural Development on the Global Mechanism, 1/

1. Adopts the memorandum of understanding annexed to the present decision, thereby bringing it into force; 2/

2. Requests the Convention secretariat and the International Fund for Agricultural Development to take, jointly and/or separately, all necessary measures for the full and timely implementation of the memorandum of understanding.

---

*/ On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1.

2/ ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1, annex, to be annexed to the decision, upon adoption, in the final report of the Conference.

UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(3)/11
20 September 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Third session
Recife, 15-26 November 1999
Item 10(a) of the provisional agenda

GLOBAL MECHANISM

REVIEW, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 22, PARAGRAPH 2(d) OF THE CONVENTION, OF THE REPORT ON POLICIES, OPERATIONAL MODALITIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM, AND THE PROVISION OF GUIDANCE TO IT

Note by the secretariat

1. At its second session, the Conference of the Parties, recalling its decisions 24/COP.1 and 25/COP.1 on the organization to house the Global Mechanism and agreement on its modalities, and on collaborative institutional arrangements in support of the Global Mechanism, by decision 18/COP.2:

(a) Requested the Global Mechanism to establish an ongoing process for consultation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations as well as with the private sector, and to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session for consideration and to take appropriate actions;

(b) Took note of the first draft of an operational strategy and requested the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to complete the development of an operational strategy, so as to ensure full consideration of all its main functions including mobilizing and channelling of financial resources as contained in its decision 24/COP.1;

(c) Decided to undertake, at its third session, in accordance with article 21, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the first review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism and, on the basis of this review, consider and take appropriate action.

GE.99-65963

2. Annexed hereto is the report of the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism1/. This report includes information on the process for consultation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations, as well as with the private sector. The report also contains an assessment of the actions taken by the Global Mechanism to facilitate the first review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, as called for in article 21 of the Convention and decision 18/COP.2.

3. A report on the operational strategy of the Global Mechanism will also be presented to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration.

1/ The report is reproduced without formal editing by the Convention secretariat.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE GLOBAL MECHANISM TO THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Recife, Brazil, November 1999

CONTENTS

		Page
1.	Introduction	4
2.	Rationale and Approach to GM Activities	4
3.	National Initiatives	5
4.	Regional and Sub-regional Initiatives	8
5.	Strategic Initiatives and Enabling Activities	11
6.	Institutional Aspects	14
	6.1 Development of the Office of the Global Mechanism	14
	6.2 The Facilitation Committee	16
	6.3 Collaboration with Facilitation Committee Member Institutions	17
	6.4 The Operational Strategy	18
7.	Resource Mobilization: Donor Countries and Institutions	20
8.	Co-operation with Non-Governmental Organizations	20

1. Introduction

Article III.B. of Annex I of the Memorandum of Understanding between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Conference of the Parties (COP) states that the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism (GM) reports to the Conference of the Parties on behalf of the President of IFAD. This report responds to this obligation. It covers the period from COP.2 to mid-August 1999. Reflecting the rationale adopted by the Global Mechanism, it provides an update on the development of the Office of the Global Mechanism. It contains information on the activities undertaken during the reporting period and includes a section on the Global Mechanism's collaboration with non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The request by COP.2 in this regard, (Decision 18/COP.2), is therefore covered as an integral part of this report.

The report contains a self-assessment of the actions taken by the Global Mechanism in this period, so as to facilitate the first review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, as called for in Article 21 of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

2. Rationale and Approach to GM Activities

The rational behind and approach to GM activities, are based on the evolving Operational Strategy. This Strategy will be presented separately to the Conference of the Parties. It therefore suffices to state here the guiding principles upon which the GM operates and which have underpinned the utilization of the catalytic resources available to the GM during its first year of operations. The guiding principles upon which the GM operates are contained in Decision 25/COP.1. They read as follows:

The GM will be:

- Demand-driven but pro-actively responsive to the needs and priorities of the Parties;
- Non-duplicative of existing mechanisms and facilities, but adding value to these;
- Non-monopolistic and geared towards promoting multi-source, multi-channel financing;
- Highly flexible in its operations, responding to emerging opportunities;
- Lean and efficient, drawing on other institutions, including its housing institution, as well as the United Nations system-wide capacities and facilities, in particular the Office of the Resident Co-ordinator; and that, moreover,
- Neutrality and universality will form the basis of the operations of the GM.

In addition, the National, Sub-regional and Regional Action Plans provide the framework for Convention implementation. The Convention also states that such plans shall be closely linked with other efforts to formulate policies for sustainable development. Moreover, the Convention clearly states that the problem of desertification (i.e. land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climate variations and human activity), is very closely linked to the development process itself, and in particular, to all aspects of rural development, to agricultural development, to poverty eradication, and to sustainable development. It is understood that this is the main reason why the Global Mechanism is not a central fund, but rather a brokering institution. It is on this basis that the approach for GM involvement in Convention implementation during its first year of operations has aimed to:

(i) Support, on request, the implementation of National Action Programmes (NAPs);

(ii) Assist, upon request, with the formulation or implementation of Regional and Sub-regional Action Programmes (SRAPs);

(iii) Develop a model for co-operation with Non-Governmental Organizations and to promote stakeholder mobilization and networking for transfer of technology and information management;

(iv) Launch strategic initiatives to enhance the overall financing opportunities for Convention implementation and to address desertification and land degradation at policy level.

3. National Initiatives

The Global Mechanism is working with three countries in West Africa: Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal. Initial discussions has also been held with regard to Latin America and the Caribbean Region, inter alia, on the occasion of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting, held in Lima, Peru, in August 1999. The support the GM is providing aims to:

- Provide assistance in developing a framework of "local area development programmes"(LADPs), as an instrument for implementing NAPs at local level, and linked to this, provide assistance for the establishment of National Desertification Funds, as a method of channelling financial resources to the local level;
- Identify the interlinkages between NAPs and ongoing or planned initiatives at national level, e.g. the development programmes supported by bilateral and/or multilateral donors, or initiatives such as the Soil Fertility Initiative developed by the World Bank, FAO and others.

Burkina Faso

The National Action Programme for Burkina Faso has been under development for several years. It has received financial support from the Burkinabé Government and by a number of bilateral and multilateral donors. The international donors include IFAD, which has played a key role. The National Action Programme provides a framework within which existing specific donor programmes can be further developed and new major initiatives and local community and civil society initiatives, be incorporated. An example of how on-going initiatives can be incorporated is the World Bank and FAO supported Soil Fertility Initiative. This initiative is being harmonized with the National Action Programme and linked into projects already operating in the field, which can thus become a vehicle for working on soil fertility issues at village level. The Global Mechanism will finance a national workshop with the aim of completing this process.

The Global Mechanism is also supporting the process of finalising the definition of the National Desertification Fund for Burkina Faso, designed as the prime financing mechanism for implementation of local development programmes. The Global Mechanism has recommended that the donor community and the private sector be invited to participate in the definition of the operational modalities of the Fund, to ensure that it reflects their needs and concerns as potential contributors. The Global Mechanism will respond positively to requests for initial contributions to capitalize the Fund, alongside the Burkinabé Government.

Mali

The Managing Director was invited to attend a Sectoral Round Table on Environment Financing, organized by the Mali Government, in May 1999. As a basis for the Round Table, the Government had prepared a specific document for consideration by the donors. This document presented four programme areas contained in the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) and the National Action Programme (NAP) to Combat Desertification. The two documents have been merged in an effort to streamline the Government's approach to environmental and desertification challenges.

The Donor community was well represented at the Round Table and some organisations and countries, including France, Germany and UNDP, sent delegates from headquarters. The Government received a positive response to its proposals and at the closing ceremony announced pledges well beyond its initial expectations.

The Global Mechanism offered to work with the Government and the donor community in defining initiatives specifically targeting the desertification process. The GM will therefore take the NEAP/NAP as its starting point, but will not limit itself to the four programme areas presented at the Round Table. At the time of writing, no follow up visit to Mali has been undertaken. It therefore remains to be defined precisely how the GM can interact with the Government and the donor community in this process. Discussions have, however, already been held with the IFAD staff responsible for Mali. Moreover, the option of integrating the Soil Fertility Initiative with the NEAP/NAP will be given due attention. Already, the GM has been instrumental in facilitating discussions between IFAD, the World Bank and IUCN

regarding a planned GEF-financed project in the inner Niger Delta. Both IFAD, in co-operation with the World Bank and IUCN had approached GEF with similar project proposals. The aim of combining the resources of IFAD, with its extensive experience of working with small farmers, with those of IUCN, with its expertise in the management of wild natural resources, has great potential. The proposal is currently under review by the Government.

Senegal

The Senegalese Government was one of the first to ratify the Convention and also one of the first to complete its National Action Programme. The Managing Director has visited the country to discuss how the Global Mechanism could best support the move from a long and thorough planning process, in keeping with the Convention, to the implementation phase. The planning process has received financial support from the Government and from a number of bilateral and multilateral donors.

In an effort to move swiftly from planning to action, the Government, in close co-operation with a number of Non Governmental Actors (which include both NGOs and other organizations such as farmers' associations), has prepared a Priority Action Programme (PAP). The PAP brings together a number of development initiatives prepared by local communities with support of appropriate NGAs. The basic idea is for such initiatives to be financed through a National Desertification Fund. However, such a fund has not yet been fully developed and therefore the Government has opted for a PAP as an interim step. The Global Mechanism, for its part, has offered to support the development of the National Desertification Fund and also to favourably consider co-financing the PAP. In both cases, the GM would act in concert with the Government as an initial contributor to the two initiatives, once fully developed and endorsed.

One result of the consultations with Government at Ministerial level (including the Ministers of the Environment, Planning and Finance) and with a selected number of key donors in Senegal, was the tentative agreement that the Government would organise a donor meeting to demonstrate its full commitment to the NAP and NAP implementation. Prior to this meeting, the Government will need to set its own contribution to both the PAP and the Desertification Fund. The Donor community is aware of its commitment under the Convention to contribute to NAP implementation, especially in the light of the priority the Senegalese Government attributes to the Plan.

A number of discussions were held with the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Water in Senegal, with the aim of exploring possibilities of harmonising sectoral initiatives with the NAP. In this context the Soil Fertility Initiative (already discussed with the World Bank and FAO), is a viable option. A livestock programme supported initially by the AfDB and now by the World Bank, may also offer an approach at regional level. Clearly, an initiative related to the Senegal River Valley is of prime relevance to the Senegalese NAP (cf. Chapter 4).

Cuba and Haiti

Within the Latin American and Caribbean Region, priority has been given to Cuba and Haiti, for support at national level, with Peru being considered the third priority country. The GM will build on efforts already made, which include support from IFAD, through inter-agency collaboration involving FAO and the CCD Secretariat, in the development of the National Action Programme for Cuba. This involves the implementation of pilot activities within a Local Area Development Programme (LADP) in the Cauto River Basin. The Global Mechanism is considering supporting Cuba in the finalisation and implementation of the NAP and in the technical validation process of the Cauto River LADP.

In the framework of its co-operation with the Government of Haiti, IFAD has provided assistance to the Ministry of the Environment in participatory methodology for the preparation of the Haitian NAP. The Global Mechanism will contribute to ensure full integration of the NAP and consider different options for the channelling of resources for financing planning and implementation of activities, such as rural development funds and community funds. The GM will also contribute to the design of strategies and programmes supported by IFAD and other donors.

4. Regional and Sub-regional Initiatives

The Global Mechanism has initiated support for the development of activities in one region and two sub-regions. The aims of the GM in relation to Regional and Sub-regional Action Programmes are to:

- Define the orientation and content of SRAPs at the inception/formulation stage of the consultation process, and supporting the process of designing and/or validating SRAPs;
- Support SRAP focal institutions, in defining the interlinkages between the SRAPs and NAPs concerned, and rendering operational the interface between them;
- Encourage the formation of strategic alliances between sub-regional bodies whose mandates are relevant to SRAP objectives with special emphasis on organizations with a proven capacity or potential to contribute as co-financiers to SRAP implementation;
- Seek methods and opportunities to render operational the interface between SRAPs and the four focal areas of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as they relate to land degradation;

Latin America

Following a proposal from the Latin America and the Caribbean Division of IFAD, the Global Mechanism, through the electronic network, FIDAMERICA, is supporting a regionally-based conference involving IFAD as well as non-IFAD projects on the theme of land degradation and desertification. The objective of this initiative is to facilitate communication between the actors on the ground in the various countries of the region, through electronic communication, rather than organizing high-level

conferences for this purpose. In order to ensure that the electronic debate is progressing effectively, a moderator of this electronic forum has been designated. The outcome of the electronic debate will be presented to the third Conference of the Parties in Brazil in November 1999. It is anticipated that this conference will provide indications of how the Global Mechanism may support the UNCCD Committee on Science and Technology, and of how traditional knowledge may be effectively collected and circulated.

Following the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting held in Lima, Peru, in August 1999, the GM has expressed an interest in supporting an initiative aiming at reviewing selected national policy frameworks. The objective would be to identify and select a limited number of policies that hamper development and the implementation of CCD objectives, and seek to have these policies revised. This initiative is already being pursued in Mexico and it is foreseen that further expansion in the region will be co-ordinated from there. The Inter-American Development Bank is also interested in supporting the initiative. If successful, this initiative might very well be pursued in other regions and become part of the GM's portfolio of strategic initiatives.

The Regional Meeting highlighted the Gran Chaco area and the Puna ecosystem as priorities at sub-regional level. Possible GM support for these initiatives will require further discussions.

West Africa

The UNCCD West African Sub-regional Action Programme was approved by the Ministers of the Environment of West African States at a meeting in Lomé in May 1999. The Global Mechanism contributed financially to this meeting. The Action Programme will be adopted by the Heads of State, in the near future. The Global Mechanism has already initiated discussions with the Permanent Inter-state Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) as the prime West African organization responsible for the technical aspects of the Action Programme as regards the implementation of specific parts of the Programme. Discussions are still in their early stages, but are focusing on support for the development of a desertification monitoring system for the region, on the development of two river basins (Senegal and Niger) and other shared water resources, and on a regional livestock initiative, covering the entire production chain. Further developments are likely to focus on a regional weather-forecasting system and on an inventory of the region's natural resource base.

The Global Mechanism has discussed these initiatives with UEMOA - the West African Economic and Monetary Union. UEMOA has expressed a strong interest in participating both from a technical point of view and as a co-financing organisation. With regard to the livestock sector, which is a crucial part of the West African economy, UEMOA already has projects underway. CILSS is also engaged in this sector. The role the Global Mechanism could play would be to foster co-ordination between these initiatives and to support further development of them, so that they encompass the productive sector of the economy. This appears to be a context in which the Global

Mechanism can fulfil its role of "matchmaker" and "broker", bringing together regional and international, technical and financial institutions.

West Asia

The development of the Sub-regional Action Programme for West Asia (Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, U.A.E. and Yemen), has been supported by the Convention Secretariat. Upon the establishment of the Global Mechanism, representatives from the region and the Secretariat called on the Global Mechanism to support the development of the Action Programme and to secure its financing. The Managing Director therefore visited the region in March 1999, and subsequently a draft proposal has been designed to this end. Two senior consultants from the region have been engaged by the Global Mechanism to visit all the countries and the three regional and international institutions involved (ACSAD, ICARDA and CEDARE), in September 1999. Once the consultants have fully discussed the content of the programme with all parties, the text will be revised in the light of these discussions. A conference to which representatives of the countries and donor institutions will be invited, will be held for the final endorsement of the Action Programme in early 2000.

As part of their brief, the consultants will be contacting potential donor institutions within the region, such as the Arab Fund for Development and the Islamic Development Bank, so as to ensure that these institutions are fully involved in the process and to offer them an opportunity to express their views. The Islamic Development Bank has already contributed financially to the development of the Programme and continues to support its development by allocating funds to the Global Mechanism to this end.

Assessment

The guiding principle for the Global Mechanism in working with Regional, Sub-regional and National Action Programmes has been to secure high technical standards and to ensure that the principles of the Convention have been observed.

In addition, the Global Mechanism is actively searching for opportunities to merge action programmes with on-going desertification and land-degradation initiatives, with the aim of rendering both the Action Programmes and the complementary initiatives as relevant as possible to those who will benefit from them, which will also enhance their funding potential.

The Global Mechanism is also seeking to involve potential donors at as early a stage as possible in the formulation and definition of initiatives, and intends to make this one of its policies. Again, the objective is to facilitate the securing of financial resources. The overall objective of this approach is to exploit the principles of the Convention whereby the developing Country Parties and regions are obliged to meet criteria of broad-based involvement in the formulation and implementation of Action Programmes. In turn, the developed Country Parties to the

Convention are committed to supporting financially the implementation of programmes and initiatives emerging from such a process.

It should be noted that it has only been possible for the Global Mechanism to initiate a limited number of actions at country and sub-regional level in its first year. However, it should be said that it was decided from the outset to follow through on a limited number of initiatives as thoroughly as possible, rather than spreading limited resources too thinly. Similarly, a programmatic approach has been sought at country and sub-regional level, instead of supporting isolated initiatives. The rationale has been to secure as high a return on investment in time, effort and financial resources, as possible.

5. Strategic Initiatives and Enabling Activities

The purpose of engaging the Global Mechanism in strategic initiatives and enabling activities is two -fold: one reason is to explore the extent to which new and additional funding can be obtained through innovative approaches to financing the Convention (strategic initiatives), the other is to develop initiatives of relevance to more than one region and therefore, which address the problem of desertification and land degradation at policy level (enabling activities). In this context, four initiatives are being developed:

Carbon Sequestration

This initiative is linked to the opportunity of fostering synergy between the CCD and the International Framework Convention on Climate Change. One of the objectives of the IFCCC is to reduce the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, in order to mitigate the greenhouse effect. There are two ways of achieving this objective: one is to reduce CO_2 emissions, the other is to absorb the CO_2 already in the atmosphere, into bio-mass.

For developed countries, the cost of reducing emissions is many times higher than that of absorbing CO_2 through re-forestation and land improvement initiatives in the developing world. There is therefore a potentially huge amount of money available for land-improvement projects. This said, in order to be able to benefit from this potential, it must be possible to verify that Carbon once absorbed in bio-mass, is retained, and not re-emitted into the atmosphere. In co-operation with IFAD, FAO and the Convention Secretariat, the Global Mechanism has begun looking into the field aspect of the carbon sequestration process, given that, particularly in dryland areas, organic matter in soil is closely related to the productivity of the soil itself. It is understood that a long time may be needed for this initiative to result in flows of funds, but given the potential, it is felt it is important for the Global Mechanism to become involved in the debate and the process.

Debt Relief Initiative

By virtue of the Global Mechanism's mandate to "explore innovative methods and incentives for mobilizing and channelling resources, including debt swaps and other innovative means", the GM has begun to examine the prospects and ways of establishing an interface between the new G-8 Debt Relief Initiative and the implementation of the CCD. Article 20 of the Convention draws attention to the debt burden of affected developing Country Parties, particularly those in Africa, and the harmful effect that the debt burden has on all aspects of the Convention. Following the Debt Relief Initiative of the G-8 in Cologne, in June 1999 and a request by the Chairman of the Conference of the Parties, the Global Mechanism has begun a study to explore how the Convention can benefit from this Initiative. The GM's involvement in relation to the Cologne Initiative should not to be misconstrued as introducing additional conditions that would hinder ongoing efforts to extend and accelerate the process of debt relief in favour of poor countries. Instead, the objective would be to examine the prospects and modalities for establishing an interface between the new G-8 initiative and implementation of the Convention. The interface relates to investments in better land management and it therefore has an economic investment aspect to it as well as a social one. Therefore, the prospective linkages between the HIPC Initiative and CCD implementation could have several advantages:

- By directing part of Government resources freed-up under the HIPC Initiative towards activities to reverse or prevent the degradation of productive land, the Governments concerned would create conditions for environmentally-sustainable economic growth. This, in turn, would enhance the capacity of these Governments to honour their future obligations in terms of debt servicing;
- The CCD provides a broad-based framework for partnership, in relation to all activities connected with rural development and poverty alleviation in areas affected by land degradation, including natural resource management, sustainable agricultural development, and social services such as health and education. Consequently, a linkage between debt relief and CCD implementation may offer an opportunity to reconcile the concerns of the apparently competitive interests of the constituencies favouring investment in the "environment" and "social sectors".
- Under the Cologne Initiative, the scope and pace of debt relief will ultimately be determined in specific arrangements between each debtor country and its creditors. However, the consultative mechanisms and strategic frameworks established under the CCD at sub-regional, regional and global levels, would offer useful fora for the exchange of experiences in combating land degradation, through the combination of external and domestic resources, including those freed up through debt relief.

The dialogue between the GM and other development partners, engaged in the debt relief agenda, will involve, inter alia, the collaboration with the NGO community, not only in recognition of the critical effect of their advocacy role in the context of the debate on debt relief, but also taking into account the emphasis the CCD

places on the relevance of NGO involvement in Convention implementation. To this end, the GM has held initial discussions with Washington D.C.-based NGOs.

As stated above, negotiations on debt relief will, in the end, become an issue for the debtor countries and their creditors. It is in these negotiations that the final decisions on how to allocate and invest resources derived from debt relief, will be taken. The aim at international level must therefore be to prepare the ground for country-level negotiations, which may be done by ensuring that desertification and land degradation feature prominently on the list of issues to be considered at these negotiations.

Community-based Exchange and Training Programme

The purpose of this activity is to encourage the establishment of systematic dialogue and exchange of experiences between "natural resource users" on issues of common interest, as a basis for building a partnership between local communities, the (central or local) government and other partners including donors and NGOs. To this end, and as a follow-up to consultations with the RIOD Network, CCD Focal Points at country level and specialized institutions, the Community-Based Exchange and Training Programme is being considered for support by the GM and its partners. The GM would contribute catalytic resources (in financial and conceptual terms), to facilitate the development and implementation of this programme. The programme is conceived as a grassroots capacity-building initiative and is expected to enhance the absorptive capacity at local level. It will therefore lay the ground for further investment of domestic and external donor resources, in support of NAP objectives. The Programme would be implemented in a decentralized manner, while providing an overall framework for cross-fertilization between projects and programmes executed by NGOs or Governmental Institutions. Provision would also be made for inclusion of areas which are currently left out of development programmes. Finally, collaborative arrangements would be made in relation to knowledge management and broad-based dissemination of best practices through partnership agreements between existing and future knowledge networks.

The initiative supported by the Global Mechanism in Latin America, discussed above, offers a model for developing initial contacts and knowledge-sharing between projects. It might therefore be appropriate for RIOD to take the responsibility for operating a network similar to that being defined in Latin America, to build on this network and expand it, under the umbrella of the Community-based Exchange and Training Programme.

Desertification Monitoring

Although desertification has been a cover-page issue for almost three decades, there is still no universally-agreed upon method of measuring and assessing the desertification and land degradation process. That said, in the final analysis, the success of Convention implementation can only be measured through such calculations. Therefore importance is given to contributing to this fundamental issue. One region and two-sub regions (Asian, West Africa and North Africa) have approached the Global Mechanism regarding the development of desertification

monitoring systems. There is therefore an opportunity of merging these interests and addressing the issue on a global scale. Discussions to this effect are just beginning. However, the Global Mechanism expects that seversal institutions will become involved in this initiative, including the Convention Secretariat, FAO, OSS, AGRIMETH (a CILSS Member Institution), and the emerging Asia Network on Desertification Monitoring, to name but few.

Assessment

Almost by their very nature, the strategic initiatives are long-term. An assessment of their eventual impact cannot be quantified or qualified at this point in time. Assessment is therefore related to whether the choices are correct, or whether there are other initiatives would be of greater interest to the Global Mechanism. The four subjects addressed so far are based on what are considered to be fundamental issues for the successful implementation of the Convention.

6. Institutional Aspects

6.1 Development of the Office of the Global Mechanism

Recruitment

The 1999 budget of the Global Mechanism provided for the recruitment of three Professional and three General Service staff. Two of the Professional posts were budgeted for immediate recruitment, while one post was planned for later in the year. At the time of reporting, candidates for the Senior Programme Manager and the Information Systems Manager/Financial Analyst, had been selected and offered employment. The Information Systems Manager/Financial Analyst, will take up his position on 1 September 1999, while the Senior Programme Manager is expected to join the Office of the Global Mechanism on 20 September 1999.

The third post, that of Programme Officer, was not advertised at the same time as the two above-mentioned posts. However, all efforts will be made to ensure that this post is filled before the end of 1999. In order to compensate for this situation, one new professional post, planned for the year 2000, will be advertised and candidates selected in parallel with the recruitment of the remaining 1999 Programme Officer post.

With regard to General Service posts, the Administrative Assistant post was filled as of 1 April 1999. The candidate selected had been covering the post since the establishment of the Office in October 1998. The second post, that of Secretary to the Senior Programme Manager, will be advertised following the entry on duty of the Senior Programme Manager. Likewise, the third General Service post of Secretary to both the Information Systems Manager/Financial Analyst and the Programme Officer, will be filled once the corresponding professionals have taken up their duties.

Meanwhile, temporary clerical assistance has been hired since May 1999, to assist with the ever-increasing workload.

The Global Mechanism's Accounts and Financial Reporting

The Global Mechanism operates three accounts, as defined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and IFAD. In order to render these accounts fully operational, legal interpretation and precise definition of the purposes for which they may be used, were required. This process has been completed in co-operation with the Legal Services of IFAD and the advice of those specialized in such issues within the Global Mechanism's Housing Institution. The final text has now been approved by the President of IFAD. The essence of the text is as follows. The first account - the Core Budget Administrative Account - in which the contributions from the Parties to the Convention are deposited, and the second account - the Voluntary Contributions Administrative Expenses Account - which is capitalized with voluntary contributions, are intended for the operations of the Office of the Global Mechanism. The funds held in the third account - the Basic Resources for CCD Finance (SRCF) Account - are to be used to support to Parties to the Convention in developing National Action Programmes (NAPs) and Sub-regional Action Programmes (SRAPs) and related initiatives, as well as for developing strategic initiatives which have a potential for generating financial resources for Convention implementation.

Once the three accounts were defined, funds from the first and second accounts were earmarked for various initiatives. In accordance with its commitment in its submission to house the Global Mechanism, IFAD has generously contributed an initial USD 2.5 million to the SRCF account. At the time of writing this report, the Technical Advisory Group which will advise on the use of funds from this account, has not yet been constituted. The Group will, however, be convened in the Autumn, and will discuss several proposals in this context at its first meeting.

The operations of the Global Mechanism during 1998 (last quarter), were financed through the voluntary contribution from Sweden (Voluntary Contributions Administrative Expenses Account). The 1998 voluntary contributions from Germany and Switzerland have been carried forward into 1999. An external audit of the Global Mechanism for 1998 was undertaken by Price Waterhouse in June 1999. The audit is being sent to the governments concerned and to the Secretariat of the CCD. In addition, a Performance Report of the first account was submitted to the Secretariat in June 1999. This report contains the Global Mechanism's financial transactions up to 31 May 1999. An update will be submitted prior to the third Conference of the Parties in November 1999.

The Memorandum of Understanding

In accordance with Decision 19/COP.2, the Executive Board of IFAD at its Sixty-sixth Session on 28 and 29 April 1999, considered the Memorandum of Understanding, containing the revisions proposed by the Second Session of the Conference of the Parties and approved the text of the MoU. The revised MoU has been returned by IFAD to the Secretariat of the CCD by letter of 13 July 1999.

Arrangements for Co-operation between the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism

By Decision 18/COP.2, the Global Mechanism and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention were requested to co-operate in order to avoid duplication and to enhance the effectiveness of Convention implementation, in accordance with their respective roles, as contained in the Memorandum of Understanding. In order to formalise this request, the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism agreed to prepare an Arrangement for Co-operation between the two entities. The Secretariat engaged a consultant to draft a proposal in accordance with the above-mentioned request. At the time of writing this report, the text is being finalised, and will then be signed by the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism.

During the course of the year, a number of initiatives have been taken as regards co-operation between the Convention Secretariat and the Global Mechanism. As a member of the Facilitation Committee, the Secretariat has contributed to the development of the Operational Strategy of the Global Mechanism. The two institutions have co-operated over the development of the Sub-regional strategy for West Asia. The same is the case as regards the planning for the development of the Asian Technical Networks. The two institutions are also co-ordinating their efforts in relation to carbon sequestration and desertification monitoring. The new Secretariat Liaison Office at the African Development Bank should also be of assistance to the GM in developing co-operation with this institution. These are but some examples of how the two institutions are working together.

6.2 The Facilitation Committee

At the time of writing this Report, the Facilitation Committee has met for the fifth time. The fourth and fifth meetings were hosted by the World Bank in Washington, and UNDP in New York, respectively. The main issues discussed at these meetings were the Operational Strategy for the Global Mechanism, the Programme of Work for 1999, and its progress. At the fourth meeting, it was decided to expand the membership of the Facilitation Committee. UNEP and FAO were therefore invited to become full members, so that the FC now consists of: IFAD, UNDP and the World Bank (founding members), the African and Inter-American Development Banks, the CCD Secretariat, FAO, GEF, UNEP, and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism in an ex-officio capacity. The Asian Development Bank has not yet attended a Facilitation Committee meeting. However, following extensive correspondence and an explanation of the role of the Facilitation Committee and the responsibilities

of its members, it is expected that the Bank will be represented in future. The Islamic Development Bank, whilst declining permanent membership of the Committee, has expressed its desire to co-operate with the Global Mechanism and demonstrated its commitment by contributing financially, through the Global Mechanism, to the preparatory consultations for the Sub-regional Action Programme for West Asia. The Managing Director of the Global Mechanism visited the African Development Bank and has begun developing closer relations with the Environment Department and with the Operational Divisions of the Bank. Moreover, the signing of the agreement between Convention Secretariat and the African Development Bank to establish a liaison office at the Bank's Headquarters in Abidjan, should also facilitate the Global Mechanism's interaction with the Bank.

It has been agreed that Facilitation Committee meetings should also be used to organize briefings for the Senior Management of the hosting institution, with the aim of raising the profile of the Convention to Combat Desertification and the role of the Global Mechanism in its implementation. In this spirit, the World Bank organized a High Level Round Table on Desertification, entitled, "Drylands, Poverty and Development: Towards a Strategy for the World Bank", on 26 May 1999, to which it also invited a large number of external resource people who have played a key role in the development and implementation of the Convention. Such participants included the Chairman of the Negotiation Sessions, the current Chair of the Conference of the Parties, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility. The Round Table was opened by the President of the World Bank, who undertook to give the Convention, Desertification and land-degradation issues a more prominent place in the Bank's operations. The World Bank has offered to host the 7th meeting of the Facilitation Committee at UNEP in Nairobi, also using this occasion as an opportunity to engage senior UNEP staff in discussions on the Convention.

6.3 Collaboration with Facilitation Committee Member Institutions

The Global Mechanism has begun to develop very positive collaborative initiatives with several Facilitation Committee Member Institutions.

FAO

Co-operation with FAO is currently focused on two issues - the Soil Fertility Initiative and carbon sequestration. FAO is expected to play an increasingly significant role in relation to GM operations, as a new member of the Facilitation Committee and as a potential member of the Technical Advisory Group on the SRCF Account of the Global Mechanism.

GEF

From the very beginning, the GEF Secretariat has responded very positively to the Global Mechanism. The Chief Executive Officer has personally extended his support to the Global Mechanism and has stressed the readiness of the GEF to support initiatives related to land degradation and desertification. The focal areas eligible for GEF financing i.e. biodiversity, climate change, international waters

and the ozone layer, must feature in projects supported by the GEF, and therefore for there to be co-operation with the Global Mechanism, GM initiatives will have to contain a component of the above. In addition, the GEF can only finance incremental costs and co-financing must therefore be arranged. Such opportunities are being explored, but are likely to take some time to reach fruition. The most advanced discussions so far are related to two GEF-supported planning projects on the Senegal and Niger river basins. Clearly, the GEF Secretariat's membership of the Facilitation Committee, and that of its three implementing organisations (UNDP, UNEP, World Bank), will facilitate co-operation in this context.

IFAD

For several years IFAD has provided both financial and substantial support to countries, in developing their National Action Programmes. This assistance has been continued in the development of IFAD's lending programmes. Strong links between the lending programmes IFAD is currently developing in Burkina Faso, Senegal and to some extent, Mali, and the National Action Programmes in these countries, can be observed. The Global Mechanism is benefiting from IFAD's knowledge and experience in these countries and as the Global Mechanism moves into other countries, the work done there already by IFAD, will also be beneficial to the Global Mechanism.

UNDP

Similarly, UNDP and in particular, the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO) has supported many countries in developing Action Programmes. The Global Mechanism is developing working relations with UNDP Offices in sub-regions where it is involved. In this way, the Global Mechanism will benefit from UNDP experience while, at the same time developing a "field representation" for its own operations.

UNEP

Although substantial co-operation with UNEP has still to be developed, it is foreseen that its role will increase over time. The initiative recently-launched by the CEOs of the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP on land and water management in Africa, will lead to an increased role for UNEP, and between UNEP and the Global Mechanism.

World Bank

The World Bank has been developing a Soil Fertility Initiative for several years, in co-operation with FAO and several other institutions. This initiative is well developed in Burkina Faso and is present in Mali and Senegal. At the suggestion of the Global Mechanism, the Soil Fertility Initiative is now being integrated into the National Action Programme in Burkina Faso. There are also prospects for broader-based collaboration with the operational departments of the World Bank, in particular the Africa Region, with reference to water resources and range management, in the context of the Sub-regional Action Programmes.

6.4 The Operational Strategy

As the Global Mechanism gains experience in its work at country, sub-regional and regional level, and with other institutions, this is being reflected in the Operational Strategy, as requested by Decision 18/COP.2. The Operational Strategy has already been revised in light of the comments made at the second Conference of the Parties. Very helpful and constructive comments were also made by members of the Facilitation Committee at its fourth and fifth sessions, and these will be taken into account in further revision of the Strategy. The revised strategy will be presented to COP.3.

Assessment

The recruitment process has proven to be more time-consuming than originally anticipated. Consequently, the capacity of the Office of the Global Mechanism to develop initiatives begun in 1999, has been stretched to its limits, and other initiatives which the Global Mechanism had planned to develop during the year, have had to be postponed until staffing levels permit, one case in point being the development of the Global Mechanism Database. Moreover, as the only professional staff member to date, the Managing Director has undertaken extensive duty travel, which has significantly reduced the amount of time he has been able to devote to other aspects.

With regard to relations with IFAD, time has been needed to forge a strong working relationship with the various divisions and service-providers with the Global Mechanism's Housing Institution. Legal Services, Personnel and the Financial Divisions of IFAD have been much solicited, and have responded as far as their capacities have permitted. Consolidation of in-house relationships has been a crucial part of the groundwork for future development of the GM's operations.

The expanded membership of the Facilitation Committee together with the above-mentioned scope for co-operation, are very positive signs and demonstrate how, in less than a year, the Global Mechanism has succeeded in forging strategic partnerships for its future development. Witb regard to the organisation of FC meetings, experience has shown that it would be preferable for the Global Mechanism to provide support for Facilitation Committee meetings, including those not chaired by its Housing Institution. Such support would consist of setting dates, proposing the agenda, distributing invitations and documentation, and co-ordinating the minutes. However, the institution hosting the meeting should continue to organise the practical aspects of the meeting and to guarantee the necessary facilities at the venue. Participants will continue to be responsible for arranging their own travel arrangements and accommodation. This rationale reflects the logic of the Facilitation Committee being a body which co-ordinates support for the Global Mechanism.

7. Resource Mobilisation: Donor Countries and Institutions

In its first year, the Global Mechanism has given priority to establishing relations with developing countries and sub-regions, seeking to establish a mode of co-operation with them and to demonstrate the ways in which the Global Mechanism can contribute to the development of Action Programmes and related initiatives. It is anticipated that a well-developed approach to Convention implementation will help to forge strong relations with the donor community and thus generate the resources needed for Convention implementation.

This approach has been possible thanks to the voluntary contributions from Germany, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland donated in connection with the creation of the Global Mechanism. The subsequent generous contribution from IFAD will allow for this approach to be pursued. In addition, the support of the Islamic Development Bank for the Sub Regional Action Programme in West Asia, channelled through the Global Mechanism, is indicative of the *modus operandi* that the Global Mechanism wishes to pursue with other donors and a selected number of foundations which give priority to land degradation as related to poverty alleviation and biodiversity issues.

It is on this basis that co-operation with the institutions of the Facilitation Committee are being consolidated, since they are the first obvious financing partners of the Global Mechanism. It should be mentioned that in addition to the financial contributions received from IFAD and the IsDB, it was highly encouraging to see that correspondence between the President of IFAD and the President of the World Bank, following the Round Table on Drylands, Poverty and Development, organized by the World Bank, mentioned above, has indicated that the Bank is prepared to consider contributing to the Global Mechanism's SRCF Account, in the forthcoming financial year.

In addition to the donor countries and institutions already mentioned, the Global Mechanism has already forged a positive working relationship with Italy, the host country of the Global Mechanism.

8. Co-operation with Non-Governmental Organizations

By Decision 18/COP.2 para. 6, the Global Mechanism was requested to establish an ongoing process of consultations and collaboration with non-governmental organizations and with the private sector, and to submit a report to the third session of the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and appropriate action. In response to this request, the Global Mechanism is to co-finance the RIOD General Meeting, which will take place in Dakar at the end of August 1999. The purpose of this meeting is for the NGOs engaged in Convention implementation to better define how RIOD itself should be organized and operate i.e. as a loose network or as a more structured organization, and how NGOs might contribute to the planning and implementation process of regional, sub-regional and national Action

Programmes. In this context, a difference will need to be made between Southern and Northern NGOs, and between NGOs from developing countries and those from developed ones. The meeting will also serve the purpose of preparing RIOD and its members for COP.3.

The Community Exchange and Training Programme, discussed above, will give priority to NGO-supported projects and local communities. Thus, it is expected that RIOD and NGOs will play a significant role in this activity. The GM is discussing financial support for this purpose, with RIOD.

At national level, the Managing Director's visits, in particular to Burkina Faso and Senegal, included discussions and consultations with the NGO community. It is clear and indeed, recognized by all parties that NGOs and civil society in these countries have played a prominent role in NAP development. Likewise, it is widely recognized that they will continue to play an active role in NAP implementation. The National Desertification Funds and the concept of Local area Development Programmes are, among other things, intended to provide an opportunity for NGOs to gain access to financial resources, so they can play the role they have defined for themselves.

Assessment

Co-operation with NGOs has only just begun. The objective during the initial period has been to define an approach for collaboration between the Global Mechanism and NGOs. Provided that the approach is correct, it should be relatively straightforward to expand the type of activities that have been initiated.

With regard to the private sector, possibilities of initiating activities have been limited due to the capacity constraint,s mentioned above. As stated earlier, it is anticipated that one of the Global Mechanism's first joint initiatives with the private sector will be the formulation and capitalization of national desertification funds. Clearly, the private sector in the developed countries should be brought in as an actor in Convention implementation. This will be a natural step once the Global Mechanism has consolidated its role as a valuable contributor to Convention implementation. Moreover, the private sector will be a major actor in the Carbon Sequestration Initiative, should the latter prove to be a viable option for addressing climate change and desertification.

Overall Assessment

By way of a summary of statements made above, the following points should be emphasized:

The Facilitation Committee as an instrument for supporting the Global Mechanism, has proved to be a very effective and beneficial tool. In addition to providing a framework for discussion and input on all aspects of the Global Mechanism's mandate, it has also fostered co-operation between the Global Mechanism and the individual FC Member Institutions.

The staff recruitment process has taken far longer than anticipated and this has had obvious consequences on all other aspects of the Global Mechanism's work to date. It is also likely to effect the second year - until such times as the core of permanent positions have been filled and those appointed have been fully briefed on their duties and gained some experience in their posts.

An offshoot of the above has been that the Global Mechanism has only been able to initiate operations in a few regions and countries. Its geographical coverage to date has thus been limited. The Global Mechanism is well aware of this shortcoming, and intends to address it, once its capacities permit. In the meantime, its judgement has been to adopt a programmatic approach, focusing on making real contributions in a limited, but targeted number of initiatives.

It should be clear from the above that the Global Mechanism must have access to its own resources to be able to fulfil its role as broker, matchmaker and interface between the developing and developed country parties to the Convention. Such resources are required to finance the very process of bringing together organizations that must be part of the planning and implementation process and also to support activities aiming at demonstrating approaches to Convention implementation. Moreover, the exploration of new funding opportunities, require investigations and research that, if successful, could yield returns of significant proportions.

UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(3)/12
29 September 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Third session
Recife, 15-26 November 1999
Item 10(c) of the provisional agenda

GLOBAL MECHANISM

REVIEW OF THE REPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON ITS COLLABORATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Note by the secretariat

1. By its decision 18/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties (COP) invited the International Fund for Agricultural Development to pursue modalities of collaboration between itself and the community of non-governmental organizations, as well as with other interested organizations, including the private sector, and to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session.

2. The secretariat hereby submits the report received from the International Fund for Agricultural Development1/ for consideration by the COP.

1/ The report is reproduced without formal editing by the Convention secretariat.

SUPPORT OF IFAD TO THE UNCCD, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	3
II.	IFAD INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO IN UNCCD TARGET AREAS (ARID, SEMI-ARID, DRY-SUB-HUMID)	4
III.	IFAD's DIRECT SUPPORT TO THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL, SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES	12
IV.	STRATEGIC ALLIANCES WITH RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS	16
V.	THE FUTURE OF IFAD/UNCCD COLLABORATION	18

I. INTRODUCTION

The Conference of the Parties (COP) held its second session in Dakar from 30 November to 11 December 1998. In adopting decision 18/COP.2 on 11 December 1998 (document ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1 - p.30), the COP invited IFAD to pursue modalities of collaboration between itself and other interested organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and to submit a report to COP 3 for consideration and to take appropriate actions. In responding to this request, this report contains updated information on IFAD's support to UNCCD implementation both in the interim period and subsequent to the ratification of the Convention, with special reference to collaboration with NGOs. The report is divided into four parts: 1) IFAD investment portfolio in UNCCD target areas (arid, semi-arid, dry-sub-humid); 2) IFAD's direct support to the preparation of national, subregional and regional action programmes; 3) IFAD's strategic alliances with relevant organizations; and 4) the future of IFAD/UNCCD collaboration.

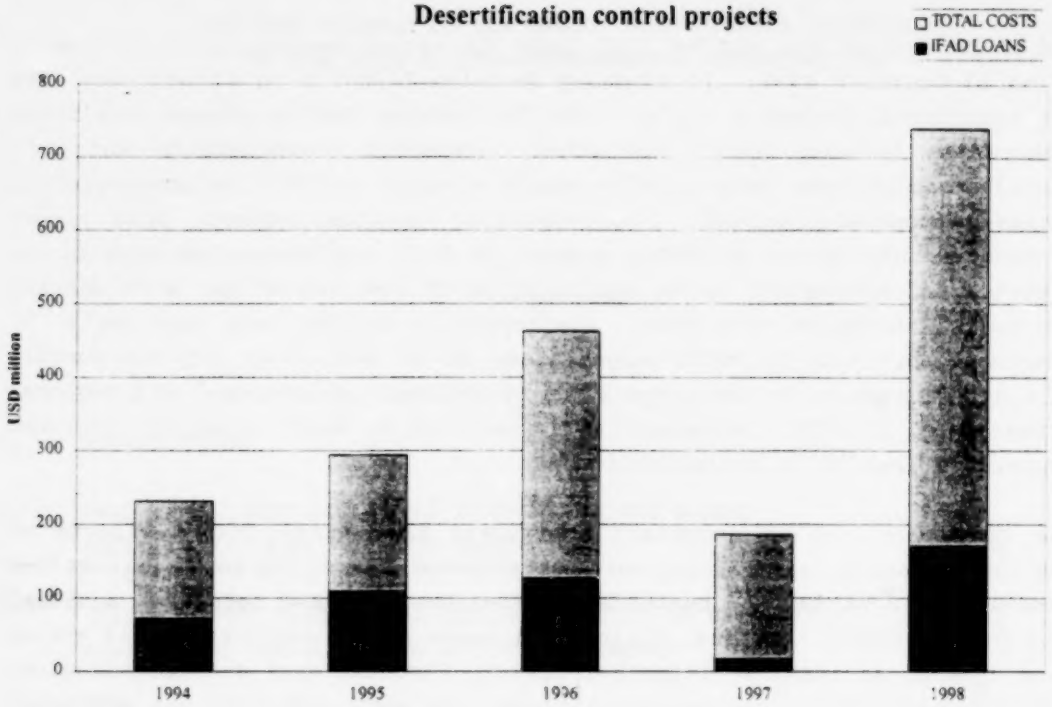
The UNCCD provides an important instrument to enhance IFAD's efforts at promoting food security, alleviating rural poverty and supporting local initiatives in dryland areas in pursuit of sustainable development. IFAD perceives national action programmes (NAPs), regional action programmes (RAPs) and subregional action programmes (SRAPs) as ideal vehicles for policy, institutional and technological adaptation to the needs of dryland populations. As such, the Fund has addressed the following activity areas of the Convention:

- Research and Development (article 17)
- Transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of technology (article 18)
- Capacity-building, education and public awareness (article 19)
- Financial resources (article 20)
- Financial mechanisms, primarily the housing of the Global Mechanism but also the establishment of national desertification funds including participation of NGOs to ensure the rapid and efficient channeling of financial resources to local level (article 21)

- Regional implementation annex for Africa (annex 1, article 4)
- Strategic planning framework for sustainable development (annex 1, article 6)
- Content of national action programmes (annex 1, article 8)
- Content and preparation of subregional action programmes (annex 1, article 11)
- Content of the regional action programme (annex 1, article 13)

- Regional implementation annex for Asia (annex 2, article 6)

- Regional implementation annex for Latin America and the Caribbean (annex 3)



II. IFAD INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO IN UNCCD TARGET AREAS (ARID, SEMI-ARID, DRY-SUB-HUMID)

Scope and relevance of IFAD's lending programme to UNCCD objectives

IFAD has been investing in areas prone to land degradation (arid, semi-arid and dry-sub-humid zones) long before the establishment of the UNCCD, and which now constitute key UNCCD target areas. Activities have encompassed agricultural production, natural resources conservation and management, and creating alternative livelihoods through, for example, micro-finance and micro-enterprise. There is a strong congruence between UNCCD objectives and the objectives of IFAD, namely poverty alleviation and sustainable development based on innovative partnerships and collective action in dryland areas. The convergence between the people-centered approach advocated by the Convention and IFAD's own emphasis on participatory development at the community and household levels has served as a vehicle for the Fund to promote UNCCD objectives. IFAD's commitment to addressing drought and desertification as a *global problem with local solutions* is demonstrated by its investment in poverty alleviation in drylands, amounting to nearly USD 3 billion and representing an invaluable pool of knowledge.

The diversity of IFAD funding investments for UNCCD implementation, as reflected by loans and grants, including Supplementary Funds, is noteworthy. UNCCD objectives are ingrained in IFAD's lending strategy for Africa, as outlined in the Fund's programme of work since the adoption of the Convention. The objectives are in line with IFAD's recognition that its most direct contribution to combating desertification and the effects of drought is through enabling frameworks at the local level: frameworks that allow dryland populations to take a lead role in combating desertification. Between the adoption of the resolution on urgent action for Africa in June 1994 and the end of 1998, the total cost of approved projects in drylands amounted to USD 1.417.665 million, of which IFAD's contribution was USD 497.067 million.

Countries involved and activity areas

In implementing its programmes in marginal areas, IFAD has worked in the following countries: Senegal, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Ghana, Tanzania, Mali, Tunisia, Sudan, Syria, Egypt, Oman, Brazil, Algeria, Cameroon, Jordan, Belize, Niger.

Activity areas include:

- establishing participatory, self-sustaining development that increases food security, nutritional status, rural income and quality of life. Such activities are based on sustainable agricultural cropping systems that are characterized by a balance between groundwater abstraction and recharge, crop diversification, rangeland stabilization, improved social infrastructure, so as to prevent rural out-migration;

- promoting communal natural resources management in a sustainable and replicable manner. Activities include soil, water, forest cover and biodiversity, with a view to increased resilience to drought and natural disaster;

- disseminating proven, ecologically sound, post-harvest and production technologies, including agro-forestry, to improve soil fertility and productivity per land unit;

- strengthening technical and institutional capacity of beneficiaries to identify their priority needs and to access technology, irrigation services and credit while implementing an exit strategy to ensure project sustainability;

- re-orienting government services from input delivery and subsidy administration toward an educational and advisory role as change agents;

- integrating environmental considerations within the macro-economic context;

- extending the coverage of agricultural research to neglected, isolated, drought-prone, agro-ecological zones that are undergoing significant natural resource degradation, so as to increase the resilience of smallholder farmers in these zones;

- incorporating traditional knowledge into technological innovations; and

- orienting the agricultural extension service toward smallholder farmers through participatory on-farm testing and validation of technologies.

In addition, IFAD has involved NGOs in the following avenues:

- sub-contracting to NGOs of technical activities by the Project Coordination and Monitoring Unit;

- consensus-building and formulation of priorities and strategies in close collaboration with government agencies;

- participation in community-level workshops to formulate development initiatives and activity budgets, based on principal needs and priorities of the beneficiaries;

- mobilization of local resources, provision of technical support services and training of beneficiary institutions; representation in the regional Steering Committee and Regional Associations to oversee programme activities;

- evaluation of long-term impact through annual beneficiary assessments; and

- joint review with public agricultural research entities of the annual performance of agricultural research programmes.

IFAD's non-lending activities

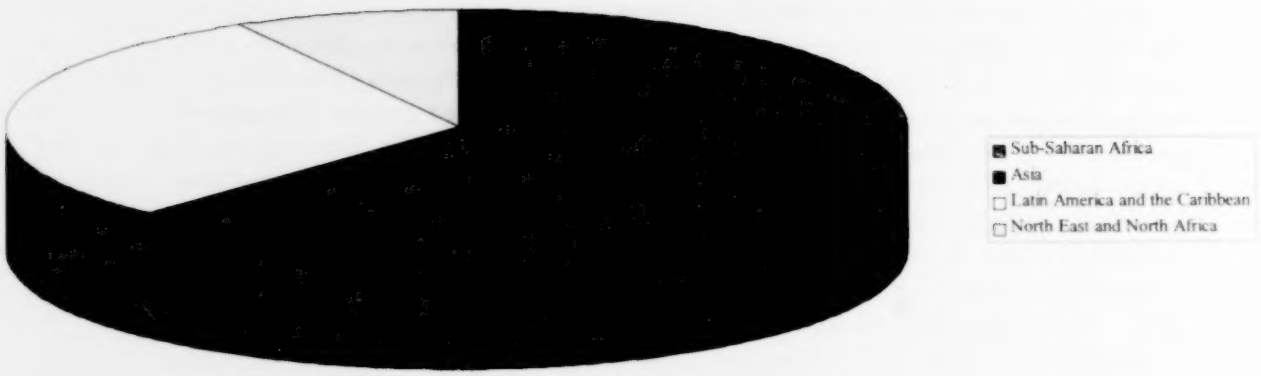
IFAD-NGO Collaboration Mechanisms

The key elements in IFAD's intervention strategy have been: 1) the development of participatory, community-level institutions as the basis of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) including those for Savings and Credit; 2) community self-management of resources; and 3) community participation in creating and maintaining economic and social infrastructure. Exploring new avenues of collaboration with NGOs, as emphasized by the very Charter establishing IFAD, has been an essential vehicle to further this strategy. Operational experience in

drylands management and desertification control have further highlighted the value of NGOs in terms of their intimate knowledge of local conditions, viz. production systems and coping strategies, and thus in articulating the needs of the target group as well as lobbying for the same with diverse global players.

The Fund arrived at an even firmer conviction that in a "bottom up" approach, NGOs had an essential role to play in : 1) generating awareness among small rural producers and creating local institutions comprised of them to promote the sustainable livelihood of communities; and 2) establishing a participatory focus and a high credibility in its own anti-poverty programmes in dryland areas. As such, collaboration with NGOs and civil society organizations has evolved over three complementary fronts: 1) direct collaboration through sub-contracting in the context of IFAD loan operations in the field; 2) support to their field activities through the IFAD/NGO Extended Cooperation Programme (ECP) and Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) and; 3) since 1990, at the policy level, the IFAD/NGO Annual Consultations.

NGO Participation in IFAD projects



NGO participation in IFAD projects has grown considerably. As of August 1999, 370 NGOs have been involved, as compared to 173 in 1993 (and not including the development of community-based organizations). Reflecting the Fund's priority treatment of NGOs from the South, 80 percent of all NGO collaborators are from developing countries. The majority of the projects presented to the Executive Board in 1998 related to collaboration with local NGOs.

NGOs, from North and South alike, have been instrumental in the following IFAD project activity areas: socio-economic surveys, group formation and institutional strengthening; farmer training and extension services; managing rural credit delivery; creating small-scale enterprises; natural resources conservation; and knowledge sharing.

ECP Grants and TAGs

To enable their participation - not just as service providers but as equal partners -- in innovative pilot projects in cogent technical areas, a growing number of NGOs receive ECP grants (with a cap of USD 75,000) and TAGs (with no specific ceiling). Under the ECP, the NGO recipient commonly provides IFAD with a replicable means of intervention under similar prevailing conditions. TAGs to NGOs are normally destined for specific areas that are crucial to desertification control: research into sustainable development practices toward rural poverty alleviation and associated training and capacity-building, technology development and dissemination, and regional collaboration.

Since 1987, IFAD has provided 128 NGOs with a grant under the IFAD/NGO ECP to support pilot, innovative activities backing up ongoing or potential projects. The grants have been targeted as follows: 45 percent for new institutional approaches with a view to sustainability; 34 percent for training programmes for both beneficiaries and extension personnel in improved resource management; and 23 percent for testing new technologies for application to the agro-ecological and socio-economic conditions of poor rural producers. The grants have been conceived as providing instruments of intervention for on-going projects; they also lay the groundwork for future IFAD investments. By December 1998, ECP grants to NGOs totaled US$ 8.81 million for 139 projects, 70 percent being destined to southern NGOs (with some NGOs receiving more than one grant).

In the context of UNCCD implementation, IFAD has been engaged in the following activities, through a number of ECP grants and TAGs and in close partnership with the UNCCD secretariat and a coalition of NGOs called the *Réseau international des ONG de lutte contre la désertification* (RIOD Network): 1) awareness generation of desertification, the Convention and the Global Mechanism in the context of community development; 2) policy formulation for development of arid and semi-arid zones; 3) participation of civil society in UNCCD-related national or regional efforts through group formation; 4) training and dissemination of resource management technology; and 5) credit management. IFAD earmarked 30 percent of its ECP specifically for NGO pilot activities in support of the UNCCD and the Global Mechanism.

Some of the main grants disbursed are:

- ECP grant disbursed through the UNCCD secretariat to *Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni Non Governative per la Cooperazione Internazionale allo Sviluppo* (COCIS) to facilitate participation of representatives of NGOs worldwide in the *First Conference of Parties* (COP-I) of the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee for the UNCCD.
- ECP grant to *Comité national d'ONGs algériennes du RIOD* for UNCCD follow-up through a project entitled *Strengthening the Capacities of NGOs in the Context of the Preservation of Biodiversity and the Fight against Soil Degradation in Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems.* It is centered on establishing a pilot farm for extending agro-sylvo-pastoral techniques to arid zones to combat salinization and desertification, paying particular attention to community-based management through training.
- ECP grant to *Caucus Africain des Femmes du RIOD*, Cameroon for awareness generation and women's capacity-building toward planning and implementating unCCD NAPs.
- *Participatory Community Rangeland Management Activities Project* in Jordan involving, among others, training of beneficiaries in sustainable rangeland management and the formation of local Bedouin management committees to promote community responsibility and self-reliance.
- *Community-Initiated Agriculture and Resource Management Project* in Belize, aimed at testing new institutional approaches to natural resources management. The project is: 1) assisting a community-initiated, indigenous group to become a fully operational NGO that will, with the Government, co-manage a national park; and 2) laying the groundwork for the implementation of a much broader resource co-management plan submitted by the community for GEF/World Bank grant funding.
- ECP grant to *Catholic Institute for International Relations* (CIIR) for sustainable community-based health care, complementary to IFAD's *Raymah Area Development Project*.
- *Income Diversification Project* in Tamou County, Niger, enabling the *Association pour le développement des activités rurales* (ADAR) to organize training and sensitization of the population in conserving and protecting an adjacent national park.
- A grant to *Enterprise Works Worldwide Inc.*, Senegal (formerly *Appropriate Technology International*), targeted at testing and applying new technologies for sesame cultivation and processing, and other related income-generating activities.
- *Village Association Support Programme for Rural Women in the Taourirt-Taforalt Region of Eastern Morocco,* seeking to improve food security and the living standards of rural women and their families through training, community organization and appropriate technology (e.g. fuel-saving stoves). It works through the *Near East Foundation* (NEF) and

the *Appropriate Technology Training Centre* (created by NEF), linking up with IFAD's on-going *Rural Development Project for Taourirt-Taforalt*

- ECP grant to *Technologien, Bau- und Wirtschaftstberatung* (TBW) for a *Study for furthering North-South NGO partnership in support of UNCCD implementation.*
- ECP grant to *World Learning* to analyze strategies, methodologies and capacity-building approaches in creating an eight-country *Coalition to Combat Desertification in Africa, Asia and Latin America* (the PVO/NGO/NRMS Project).
- ECP grant to *World Resources Institute* for NGO capacity-building for UNCCD-related policy formulation.
- ECP grant to *Canadian Hunger Foundation* to examine the feasibility of a drought mitigation network linking farmers with research institutions.
- ECP grant to *Earth Action* and *Natural Heritage Institute* for a strengthened Education and Awareness-Raising Campaign in the US regarding the UNCCD.
- TAG to *Developpement Environnement Formation Insertion Sociale (Sahel Defis)* to organize the *Forum of Mediterranean NGOs* to analyze the experience of RIOD Network in combating desertification.
- TAG to *Youth for Action* for organizing the *AFRO-ASIAN Global NGO Forum on South-South and South-North Cooperation* to enable grassroots-level NGOs to assess options for UNCCD implementation at local level.
- TAG to *Solidarité Canada Sahel* for an inventory of traditional techniques in West Africa in addressing drought and desertification.
- TAG to *Comite Nacional pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora* (CODEFF) and *Natural Heritage Institute* (NHI) to organize a North-South Hemispheric Meeting of NGOs to identify pressing issues and potential partnerships in desertification control in Latin America and the Caribbean.

IFAD's Special Programme for African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification (SPA) involved NGOs in developing drought-tolerant traditional staples and small-scale water management schemes well before the UNCCD became effective.

Conferences and Consultations

IFAD and its major partners from multilateral institutions, along with a wide spectrum of civil society organizations, organized the Conference on Hunger and Poverty in Brussels in November 1995. The focus of the Conference was the creation of a coalition between formal agencies and civil society organizations to combat hunger and poverty. *The Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty* resulted from the Conference and comprises IFAD, FAO, the European Commission, the World Bank, World Food Programme (WFP), and regional and sectoral NGOs. The Coalition has accorded high priority to promoting the empowerment of civil society in formulating, implementing and evaluating UNCCD NAPs. It has resolved to cultivate political will and engage in innovative, localized activities in drylands based on

environmental accounting models. In April 1997, IFAD's Executive Board approved a USD 900,000 TAG for the implementation of the Coalition's Programme of Work for 1997/98.

At the policy level, since 1990, IFAD has convened annual consultations with NGOs from North and the South for exchanges of lessons learnt regarding best practices for poverty alleviation. Themes for each consultation are selected by an Advisory Group of NGOs and IFAD staff and have included: 1) capacity-building at the local level; 2) Local Action Development for Sustainable Resource management; and 3) networking cooperation mechanisms with other multilateral organizations. One of the recommendations of the Eighth Consultation held in Rome in October 1997 was strategy development by IFAD for involving NGOs in policy-making toward UNCCD implementation. A new opportunity emerging at IFAD for NGOs to collaborate at the policy level is the development of a year-2000 Rural Poverty Study.

In addition, a large number of NGOs participated in two meetings concerning strategies and technologies to combat desertification: *Land Degradation and Poverty: a Washington Workshop* (1994) and *Rome Symposium* (1995). **During 5-7 June 1996, IFAD and UNCCD secretariat jointly organized in FAO, Rome an *International Forum on Local Area Development Programmes* at FAO Headquarters in Rome to identify modalities of integrating Local Area Development Programmes with National Action Programmes to combat desertification.** It was attended by some 194 experts representing governments, Northern and Southern NGOs, multilateral financial institutions and United Nations agencies. **The Forum launched a major IFAD study entitled *Common Property Resources and the Rural Poor in Sub-Saharan Africa*.**

With civil society organizations and governments having been granted equal status in the COP, in 1997 IFAD mobilized an ECP grant of USD 60,000 for COP-I, aimed at: 1) organizing an NGO Forum to exchange ideas and experiences between NGOs, governmental and intergovernmental agencies; 2) highlighting successful pilot projects and on-going activities of a participatory nature through a Media Outreach Workshop and Media Seminar; and 3) integrating Indigenous Knowledge and the Community Value System into National Action Programmes. NGOs have played a prominent role in NAP development in Burkina Faso and Senegal.

Most recently, IFAD provided a TAG of USD 90,000 for the *Second World Forum of Mayors on Cities and Desertification* (Bonn, 11-12 June 1999) as a sequel to the First Forum (Rome, 3-4 October 1997). NGOs were well represented at this meeting.

Supplementary Funds

IFAD has mobilized Supplementary Funds through Swiss and Italian grant financing. Approved allocations from the two grants amounts to USD 2.358 million.

Under the Swiss grant, as of 16 October 1998, ten individual Supplementary Fund allocations have been approved, amounting to USD 0.668 million. Within these, the largest single allocation went to Burkina Faso for the *Second Phase of the*

National Action Programme for the Implementation of the UNCCD. Swiss grant financing was also provided to the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) to hold a workshop on the use of a RAP as an instrument for rangeland management in Africa. Priority areas of technology and policy, including fodder crop improvement for incorporation into RAPs, were identified. The Swiss grant fund also covered the USD 0.09 million disbursed to the UNCCD secretariat for the *Second African Regional Conference on the Implementation of the UNCCD*, held in Tunis from 2-5 November 1998, affording African countries an opportunity to take stock and lay the groundwork for COP-II.

Under the Italian Grant, three separate allocations were approved, amounting to USD 1.689 million. The largest individual portion went to Chad for a pilot programme to fight drought and desertification in the Kanem area.

The main highlights of IFAD's planned grant programme for 1999 comprise USD 2.5 million as a first tranche to the UNCCD Support Facility (CSF) in the hope of catalyzing voluntary contributions from other sources. The proposed grant for the CSF was approved by the Executive Board as well as the IFAD-COP MOU during COP-II in Dakar.

III. IFAD'S DIRECT SUPPORT TO THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL, SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

IFAD's Economic Policy and Resource Strategy Department is focusing on coalition building between member states to combat desertification through the adoption of long-term drought impact mitigation strategies. An overview of activities initiated by IFAD in support of the UNCCD follows.

National action programmes (NAPs)

IFAD came to the conclusion that its best contribution to the cause of desertification control was to lay the groundwork for replicable programmes and projects at the local level that could be scaled up to a NAP, placing emphasis on the initiatives of the dryland population itself. Under IFAD's annual lending programme, an estimated USD 100 million a year is allocated to investments in projects in countries affected by desertification, and that bear relevance to the NAP objectives. Complying with the recommendation of the Convention, IFAD has mobilized substantial amounts in grant funds for the preparation of NAPs, and is actively supporting selected governments in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean in the same endeavour. It is continuing to mobilize resources from bilateral and multilateral donors.

- In April 1995 IFAD's Executive Board approved a two-year USD 1.15 million TAG, *Programme for Assistance to African Countries in the Implementation of CCD in the Interim Period*. The objectives were to: 1) serve as a catalyst for launching or completing NAPs, RAPs and SRAPs; 2) provide finance for civil society organizations in general and NGOs in particular, which, as

stated in the text of the Convention, are critical to implementation of the same; and 3) provide finance for technology transfer, including the use of indigenous knowledge in affected countries as well as for incorporating dryland research into the International Agricultural Research System agenda.

The TAG was used to finance: a) support to NAPs in terms of mobilizing inter-agency collaboration to the needs of the small farmer, pastoralist and other low-income groups in dryland areas; b) the creation of an enabling environment for NAPs by launching a programme of Participatory Action Research (PAR) to harmonize incentive systems for Natural Resources Management; and c) the assembling of the UNCCD focal points in West and Central African member countries at a workshop to define the orientation framework for the SRAPs. In this context, IFAD allocated USD 37,113 to the Free University of Amsterdam to engage in an issue-oriented review of successful practical experiences in the use of policy instruments in Sub-Saharan Africa. As a sequel to the initial review, it was decided to assess experiences in the use of indirect incentives for sound Natural Resources Management.

- As part of the above programme, TAG Programme commitments of USD 200,000 and USD 39,478 went to Burkina Faso toward the *NAP Formulation Process* and the *Technical Backstopping for NAP*, respectively. The national institution in charge of following up on the INCCD is the Conseil National de Gestion de l'Environnement (CONAGESE). Co-financing in the form of direct support to CONAGESE from bilateral and multilateral sources to the amount of USD 500,000 and USD 30,000 (Swiss Grant) were also obtained for the respective objectives.

  Activities included institutional strengthening of CONAGESE and the elaboration of a NAP through a coherent, genuinely participatory methodology, whereby Local Area Development Programmes, reflecting community needs and aspirations, serve as an important instrument for NAP implementation. Several support missions by an internationally renowned Natural Resources Management specialist were organized at regular intervals. The first National Forum on UNCCD, assembling all stakeholders, was convened in July 1997, and the second in July 1999, making Burkina Faso one of the first countries to effectively prepare and launch the NAP. The process was seen as a sound model for UNCCD implementation.

- Under the same programme, IFAD has been the first donor to support the NAP process in Lesotho through a grant of USD 200,000. It conducted various public awareness campaigns through district-level workshops and village-level seminars toward building the NAP from the grassroots up through district-level activities. IFAD is also providing supplementary funding for technical review of the draft NAP.

- Upon request from the Government of Tanzania for IFAD's assistance in local-level programming for NAP (through pilot activities in selected dryland areas, and based on Participatory Action Research), a total of USD 123,409 was committed under the TAG-CCD Programme.

- IFAD made a TAG for USD 80,000 available to FAO for the *Design of a National Action Programme to Combat Desertification: Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for the Cauto River Basin, Cuba*. The design of the NAP, in parallel with the implementation of a pilot Soil and Water Management Project for the sustainable development of the Cauto River Basin, contributed to the three-year grant programme's broad objectives: to reclaim degraded land and arrest and prevent desertification. A first draft of the NAP, including a national strategy, a set of country maps and detailed action plans at community and municipality levels, was presented through regional workshops and a national forum in November 1998. A participatory planning process was carried out in the Cauto River Basin, followed by the launching of on-farm technology validation activities in selected pilot areas. In addition, local technicians and producers received training in Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Further support will be provided to the NAP through a second grant.

- For Peru, in November 1997 IFAD approved a TAG of USD 20,000 to co-finance an *International Training Course within the Framework of the UNCCD NAP* with the Dutch Cooperation. The training course focused on scientific progress and experiences in development projects in arid and semi-arid zones, including the knowledge of the population inhabiting dry forest areas. The course, which included lectures and field visits to six areas in the Departments of *Lambayeque* and *Piura*, was attended by a group of 240 technicians, students and peasants' leaders. The institution responsible for the event was the *Algarrobo* Project, which had already been working for five years in the fragile and arid ecosystems of the North Coast area, conserving and productively managing the dry forests.

- In the framework of its cooperation with the Government of Haiti, IFAD provided technical assistance to the Ministry of the Environment for the preparation of the UNCCD NAP. Assistance focused on participatory proposals on methodology, work plans and budgets for preparing the NAP, and the launching of pilot operations in collaboration with peasant communities. In delivering such assistance, progress made with participatory approaches in African countries and lessons learned therefrom were duly noted.

- Italian Trust Fund resources were approved in September 1998 to support the Niger National Action Programme in the amount of US$ 400,000, while US$ 200,000 was allocated to Cape Verde.

Subregional Action Programmes (SRAPs) and CGIAR Centers

In support of Subregional or Regional level organizations under its Regular TAG Programme, IFAD has committed USD 8.4 million toward the development of Environmentally Sustainable Technologies to increase incomes of the target group. They include *Improving Adaptability of Promising Agroforestry Technologies in the Sahel*, jointly with the International Centre for Research on Agroforestry (ICRAF), and *Strategies for In-Situ Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources in Desert-Prone Areas of Africa*, in collaboration with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

The Permanent Inter-State Committee to Combat Drought and Desertification in the Sahel Region (CILSS) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) were appointed as lead agencies for the SRAP in West and Central Africa. IFAD provided a USD 50,000 grant to bring together the UNCCD focal points in member countries at a SRAP Technical Committee workshop in Accra, Ghana in 1997. The aim was to define the orientation framework for the SRAPs and work toward harmonization of NAPs through cross-fertilization of experiences. Enlisting the participation of farmers' organizations, the meeting elaborated thematic action areas for priority intervention and sought to identify a funding and steering mechanism for SRAPs. Incentive-based policy instruments are being incorporated into SRAP formulation.

Regional Action Programmes (RAPs)

- With IFAD funding of USD 30,000, the First Africa-Latin America-Caribbean Forum on the Implementation of the UNCCD was held in Recife, Brazil in October 1998. The objective of the Forum was to strengthen collaboration and partnership between the desertification-affected countries in the two regions, within the framework of South-South cooperation in UNCCD.

- IFAD, through a USD 44,000 grant, supported the convening of a *Regional Workshop on Networks for the Promotion of Agroforestry and Soil Conservation* in Bamako, Mali, in 1998, organized by the UNCCD secretariat and the International Centre for Research in Agro-Forestry (ICRAF). It also participated in its proceedings.

- In Latin America, numerous IFAD projects are located in environmentally fragile arid and upland zones -- typical UNCCD target areas. IFAD committed itself to facilitating formulation and implementation of the RAP and individual NAPs. As part of the development of the RAP for Latin America and the Caribbean, IFAD contributed USD 85,000 for: the establishment of a UNCCD Regional Information Network; the finalization of a project on benchmarks and indicators for environmental assessment; and the organization of a technical workshop on the RAP in parallel with the UNCCD Fourth Regional Meeting in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda. Within the context of the training activities in the UNCCD Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Action Plan, IFAD contributed USD 30,000 to co-finance a Fifth Training Course on

Desertification and Sustainable Development. Participants were drawn from 12 Latin American countries. The training programme, backed up by institutional strengthening, placed particular emphasis on guidelines for action for NAPs. It was jointly administered by FAO and UNEP.

- For Asia, IFAD provided a TAG of USD 100,000 for: 1) Preparatory Activities toward the Regional Programme: preparation of the *Regional Expert Group Meeting* in Bangkok, November 1998; 2) the launching of Thematic Programme Networks (TPNs) in China, India and Iran; and 3) the development of the *Tashkent Inter-Regional Action Programme for Central Asia*.

IV. STRATEGIC ALLIANCES WITH RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS

The first Conference of Parties (COP-I) to the UNCCD, held in Rome from 29 September to 10 October 1997, selected IFAD to house the Global Mechanism (GM) of the Convention. The GM, although having a separate identity within IFAD, is an integral part of the Fund and, working closely with the UNCCD secretariat, comes under the authority of the Conference of Parties. In addition:

- A collaborative institutional arrangement was established between UNDP, IFAD and the World Bank in the form of a Facilitation Committee (FC) to engage in exchange of views and support the CM's work in UNCCD implementation. Its membership has expanded beyond its founding members to include the UNCCD Executive Secretary, the GEF and regional development banks.

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been concluded between IFAD and FAO with the objectives of: 1) enhancing cooperation in assisting countries in UNCCD implementation; and 2) promoting collaborative activities for sustainable dryland development.

- In 1996, IFAD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), based in Canada, in which both parties agreed to collaborate in the field of land degradation control. Common efforts were to be undertaken in the implementation of the UNCCD, starting with measures for urgent action in Africa, in particular, the preparation of NAPs and RAPs and research on incentive systems for natural resources management.

- Following an agreement in April 1997, IFAD and the World Bank have initiated a joint "accelerated learning" programme with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to assist dryland countries in controlling land degradation, alleviating poverty and pursuing global environmental objectives. The development of a demonstration pipeline of GEF land rehabilitation projects was to pave the way for a strong future GEF role in addressing land degradation in the context of the UNCCD.

Awareness Building and Policy Reflection

The crucial role of awareness generation among the beneficiaries and formulation of appropriate policies on the success of UNCCD-related investments cannot be underestimated.

IFAD has collaborated with the UNCCD interim secretariat and the *Centre for Our Common Future* to produce a simplified version of the Convention entitled *Down to Earth: A Simple Guide to the Convention to Combat Desertification, Why it is Necessary and What is Important and Different About it*. The production and translation cost was shared between IFAD (providing USD 50,000), Swiss Development Cooperation and UNEP.

In observance of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, a *Symposium on Land Degradation and Poverty* was held in the Chamber of Deputies in Rome on 16 June 1995. The meeting, jointly sponsored by IFAD and the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was attended by policy-level representatives from the Italian Ministry of Environment, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Convention to Combat Desertification (INCD), the World Resources Institute (WRI), FAO, IFAD and the Free University of Amsterdam Center for Development Cooperation Services. The Symposium launched two IFAD-sponsored special studies: *Down to Earth - a Simplified Version of the Convention*; and *Impacts of Male Out-migration on the Workload of Rural Women and its Implications for Resource Conservation* (in collaboration with SOS Sahel).

A Special Programme for Asian Upland Countries

In terms of area, Asia is home to the highest percentage of absolute poor in the world, 65 percent of whom subsist in uplands, hilly and mountainous terrain. In March 1998, IFAD realized that those hardest hit by the Asian Financial Crisis were rural peoples residing in these marginal lands, which often undergo severe land degradation. Having been left outside the pale of development policies and practices, their entire livelihoods and socio-ecological condition are in persistent crisis. They have to contend with the problems inherent to rainfed farming on such low-potential lands.

As a response, in mid-1998, IFAD's Asia and Pacific Division initiated a programme to improve the quality of economic growth. A technical feasibility study of this initiative, prepared by FAO, was deliberated on during a three-day consultation in April 1999 at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok. Hosted by the regional IUCN office, the Consultation drew participants from nine Asian countries, regional and international organizations and bilateral agencies. It was aimed at: 1) awareness generation of the proposed initiative among concerned stakeholders; and 2) adaptation of constituent elements to upland community needs. A specific proposal geared to the very poor rural households in upland areas, based on partnership-building between governments, donors and civil society organizations including NGOs, received overwhelming support. The proposal had seven constituent

elements: 1) regenerative agriculture; 2) natural resource management, including biodiversity; 3) diversification of mountain economy; 4) provision of micro-finance services; 5) micro-enterprise development; 6) local institution-building; and 7) local employment creation.

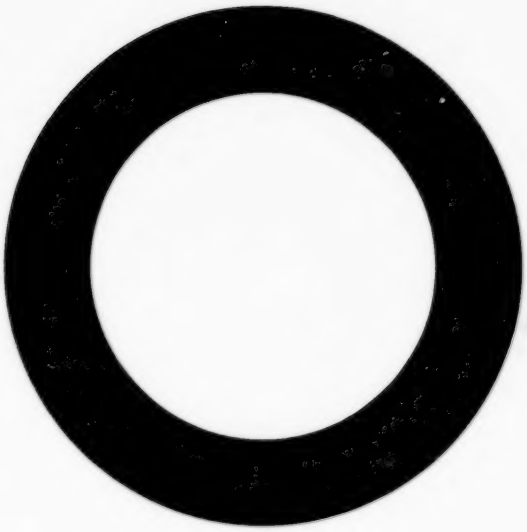
To orient Japanese government officials to IFAD's Special Programme for Asia, a similar one-day Consultation was held in Tokyo on 8 July 1999. Marking the first concrete step to building a constituency in Japan with a view to future partnership-building, the Consultation was attended by 402 people, including Members of Parliament, senior government officials, well-known economists and prominent Japanese journalists. The symposium served as an arena for open discussion on a response strategy for the impact of the Asian Crisis on the Upland Poor. Participants had the opportunity, through tele-conferencing, to directly interview IFAD beneficiaries in East Java, Indonesia about their coping strategies in the Crisis.

V. THE FUTURE OF IFAD/UNCCD COLLABORATION

With the UNCCD target area characterized by concentrated areas of rural poor within both low-income, food-deficit countries and middle-income countries, implementation of the Convention automatically entails mapping out a course for rural poverty alleviation and sustainable agriculture. Cognizant of its importance in serving as an instrument for promoting local initiatives toward sustainable development, IFAD has consistently supported the implementation of the Convention, including the allocation of significant resources. As the Housing Facility for the GM, IFAD has become even more aware of its increased responsibility and commitment to further the goals of the Convention through both technical assistance and resource mobilization.

The harnessing of biotechnology as a long-term tool in the fight against hunger and in poverty alleviation in drylands has still to be explored; NGO partners, functioning as the major brokers between researchers and small holders, could be instrumental in determining its merits.

IFAD has clearly recognized the role of NGOs in the UNCCD process by associating them in programmes it finances through, for instance, the NGO-ECP instrument. As such, it will continue to encourage NGO participation in NAP implementation by: 1) placing emphasis on project proposals relevant to UNCCD objectives under the NGO-ECP instrument; and 2) developing financing coalitions with NGOs, and providing an increased role for rural people's organizations. The theme of desertification is set to remain uppermost on the agenda, in the context of IFAD-NGO collaboration.



UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(3)/12/Add.1
25 October 1999

ENGLISH ONLY

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Third session
Recife, 15-26 November 1999
Item 10(c) of the provisional agenda

GLOBAL MECHANISM

REVIEW OF THE REPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON ITS COLLABORATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

1. By its decision 18/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties (COP) invited the International Fund for Agricultural Development to pursue modalities of collaboration between itself and the community of non-governmental organizations, as well as with other interested organizations, including the private sector, and to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session. This report is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/12.

2. The secretariat hereby submits an addendum[1]/ to the above-mentioned report received from the International Fund for Agricultural Development for consideration by the COP.

1/ Reproduced without formal editing by the Convention secretariat.

DETAILS OF UNCCD RELEVANT PROJECTS IN IFAD's CURRENT PORTFOLIO

In implementing its programmes in marginal areas, IFAD has mobilized non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as and when appropriate, selected examples of which are noted below. Projects approved from 1997 to date of relevance to the UNCCD include:

Senegal Village Management and Development Project (US$ 13.401 m and IFAD loan US$ 9.488 m). With precipitation in the project area in the northern part of the Groundnut Basin averaging only 200 to 350 mm/year, insufficient and irregular rainfall is the most serious constraint facing the rural population. Rainfed farming is thus highly unpredictable. The vegetation cover is degraded in certain over-exploited zones. The main long-term objective is to establish a durable, self-sustaining development that increases food security and rural income and prevents rural out-migration. The Project Coordination and Monitoring Unit will sub-contract all technical activities to partner institutions including NGOs.

Madagascar Second Environment Program Support (total cost US$ 155 m and IFAD loan amount US$ 8.1 m). Poverty and a low level of agricultural technology (slash-and-burn agriculture) compounded by a rapid population growth of 3 % per year are the main causes of natural resources degradation, threatening not only the high endemic biodiversity but also triggering deforestation and soil erosion. The three key objectives are: 1) reduce environmental degradation ; 2) promote sustainable natural resource use, including soil, water, forest cover and biodiversity; and 3) integrate environmental considerations within the macro-economic context. The direct beneficiaries are the most chronically food-insecure and landless households. To obtain full consensus on strategies and priorities, international NGOs have worked jointly with the Malagasy agencies.

Agro-Forestry Project to Combat Desertification in Senegal (total project cost US$ 13.9 m and IFAD loan amount US$ 8.2 m) was passed by the Board in December 1998. The area, located in the heart of the Groundnut Basin, has a hot, dry Sudano-Sahelian climate, with an average annual rainfall of 400 mm over a total of 30 days. Extreme year-to-year variations in rainfall and water scarcity are responsible for deterioration of vegetal cover, loss of soil fertility through wind erosion, and an alarming rate of desertification in many places, prompting a temporary and permanent out-migration of crop farmers and livestock herders from their villages. To prevent the vicious circle of resource degradation and poverty, the project aims toward a durable, participatory, self-sustaining development through disseminating proven, simple agro-forestry technologies to improve soil fertility and productivity in conjunction with capacity-building, institutional strengthening and improved rural infrastructure. Technological innovations would duly incorporate traditional knowledge in terms of, for instance, environmentally sound cropping practices.

Syria Badia Rangelands Development Project (total cost US$ 104.92 m and IFAD loan US$ 20.2 m) approved on 23 April 1998, was aimed at establishing and implementing a replicable, participatory methodology for Sustainable Natural Resources Management. It marks the first large-scale integrated operation to improve the well-being of the Bedouin Community.

Egypt Sohag Rural Development Project (total project cost US$ 93.753 m and IFAD loan US$ 24.997 m) was passed by the Board on 10 September 1998. The desert-like climate of the Governorate of Sohag, located in middle Upper Egypt, provided irrigation, lends itself well to a wide range of crops. The primary objective is to increase incomes and quality of life of 210,000 households by way of sustainable rural development. The Sohag project will collaborate with small, indigenous NGOs as well as large, national and international ones to mobilize local resources, provide services and train beneficiary institutions. NGOs will be represented in the regional Steering Committee. Long-term impact evaluation will be conducted through annual beneficiary assessments with the assistance of NGOs.

Smallholder Irrigation Support Programme in Zimbabwe (total project cost US$ 19.33 m and IFAD loan US$ 12.12 m) was passed by the Board in September 1998. Inadequate and unreliable rainfall and the recurrent threat of drought in the dry areas of Zimbabwe restrict the potential of rainfed agriculture on which the livelihoods of most smallholder farmers depend. Water shortage, the most serious and common problem, seriously threatens Household Food Security and constrains marketing of the local produce. The objective is to sustainably increase incomes and food security of the irrigating smallholder households. The participatory approach would ensure a gradual transfer of irrigation system management to the farmers themselves. The Programme is implemented through existing technical support services of the government, with provision for the contracting of additional services from the private sector and NGOs, where appropriate.

Ethiopia Agricultural Research and Training Project (total cost US$ 90.642 m and IFAD loan US$ 18.158 m) was passed by the Board on 10 September 1998. Recurring droughts, a lack of improved production technologies, and poor farming practices causing declining soil fertility, low productivity and land degradation are partly to blame for a food-deficit situation. It seeks to strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers in the poorest rural households to drought and famine by extending the coverage of agricultural research to neglected, isolated, drought-prone agro-ecological zones, undergoing significant natural resource degradation. Home to a high concentration of especially poor and vulnerable households, the generation and adoption of ecologically-sound post-harvest and production technologies will increase productivity per land unit, improving Household Food Security and farmer incomes, while minimizing pressure on marginal lands. The Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization (EARO), responsible for overall project implementation, in reviewing the annual performance of each research programme, will share its findings with a wide community of stakeholders including NGOs.

Lesotho Sustainable Agricultural Development Programme for the Mountain Areas (total project cost US$ 10.9 m and IFAD loan US$ 8.4 m) was passed by the Board on 10 September 1998. Poverty in the mountains is attributed to agro-ecology unsuited to crop production coupled with a limited and degraded natural resource base in terms of accelerated soil erosion from a depleted vegetative cover on account of high livestock stocking rate and overgrazing. The main objectives are: 1) to improve household food security and nutritional status of 45 % of the poorest people in 3 mountain districts, laying emphasis on beneficiary participation and 2) increase household farm incomes through crop diversification, rangeland stabilization, improved livestock production and a unified agricultural extension service oriented toward smallholder farmers. Village Headman's Workshops, organized by District Programme Officers, will be attended by NGO representatives to formulate development initiatives and activity budgets, based on principal needs and priorities of the beneficiaries.

Mali Sahelian Areas Development Fund Programme (total cost US$ 46 m and IFAD loan US$ 22 m), passed by the Board on 2 December 1998, is the first IFAD-supported operation under the new Flexible Lending Mechanism (FLM), introduced in September 1998. The Sahelian ecology entails extreme vulnerability to fluctuations in food production in the face of persistent drought and desertification. Land degradation and marginalization are responsible for food insecurity and low, uncertain incomes in the Sahelian areas of Mali. The ultimate goal is to reduce poverty among rural households through improved incomes and living conditions. Beneficiaries would be empowered to identify their own priority needs. At the end of the FLM period, achievements would be consolidated and an appropriate exit strategy implemented to ensure project sustainability. Regional Associations will be established in each region to oversee programme activities, comprising of, among others, representatives of local and foreign NGOs.

Tunisia Integrated Agricultural Development Project in the Governorate of Zaghouan (total project cost US$ 33.6 m and IFAD loan amount US$ 16.1 m) was approved by the Board on 3 December 1998. The project area is located in the country's semi-arid zone with an average annual rainfall of 300-450 mm and large inter-annual variations. Uncontrolled grazing and soil erosion on the hillsides have been causing rapid rangeland degeneration. Its aim is to bring about increased, more stable and diversified income through sustainable productivity increase based on developing local-level capacity to plan, maintain and manage Soil and Water Conservation investments. The Project Management Unit will oversee the *Community Development and Promotion of Rural Women* component with the support of, among others, NGOs.

Sudan North Kordofan Rural Development Project It bears mention that the design of this project (total cost US$ 23.7 m and IFAD loan US$ 10.5 m), passed by the Board on 28 April 1999, was specifically aimed at promoting communal natural resources management toward increased, sustainable utilization and therefore increased resilience to drought and natural disaster. Consultation and participation of beneficiaries are emphasized.

Community Resources Management Project in the Sultanate of Oman The project (total cost US$ 38.1 m and IFAD loan US$ 5.2 m), was passed by the Board in December 1998. Crop production in the project area is entirely dependent on irrigation from limited groundwater resources. Seriously declining water tables threaten the already low agricultural productivity. The project is primarily aimed at sustainable agricultural cropping systems based on: 1) a balance between groundwater abstraction and recharge; and 2) improved returns from irrigation water. The project represents an innovative approach to water catchment management through community self-help, government services re-oriented from input delivery and subsidy administration toward an educational and advisory role as change agents.

Sustainable Development Project for Agrarian Reform Settlements in the Semi-Arid North-East, Brazil was passed by the Board on 3 December 1998. The area is characterized by a 6-7 month dry season, with severe regional droughts occurring every 7-10 years, restricted water supply, poor quality soils and lack of access to available production technologies adapted to semi-arid conditions. The project is aimed at sustainable improvement of social and economic condition of poor "agrarian reform" settlers and neighbouring smallholders through participatory on-farm testing and validation of such technologies coupled with water storage and management.

Upper-East Region Land Conservation and Smallholder Rehabilitation Project in Ghana is one particular example of IFAD's investment in Environmentally Sound Good Practices, Phase 1 of which was completed at the end of 1997. A second phase (total project cost US$ 15.039 m and IFAD SPA loan US$ 12.539 m), approved on 29 April 1999, is aimed at empowering rural populations to: 1) access improved productivity-enhancing technology, irrigation services and credit so as to increase and stabilize their farm incomes; and 2) develop social infrastructure toward improved living conditions and the environment. Beneficiary communities would receive technical assistance through a demand-driven participatory approach, ensuring long-term sustainability.

The following project has reached an advanced stage of design so as to be presented to one of the forthcoming sessions the Executive Board.

The ***Participatory Irrigation Development Programme in Tanzania*** is aimed at improving Household Food Security and smallholder incomes by strengthening technical and institutional capacity of farmers, private sector, NGOs and civil society organizations toward developing smallholder irrigation throughout marginal areas of the country's Central Plateau.

UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(3)/13
19 July 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Third session
Recife, 15-26 November 1999
Item 13(a) of the provisional agenda

OUTSTANDING ITEMS

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE RULE OF PROCEDURE NOT YET AGREED UPON: RULE 47

Note by the secretariat

1. At its second session, the Conference of the Parties, by decision 21/COP.2, decided to replace the marginal note, the title and paragraph 1 of rule 47 of the rules of procedure with the text reproduced in annex, and requested the secretariat to include consideration of this outstanding rule of procedure on the agenda of its third session (ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1).

2. The secretariat is transmitting, annexed to the present document, the text of rule 47 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, as amended by decision 21/COP.2.

Annex

TEXT OF RULE 47 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, AS AMENDED BY DECISION 21/COP.2

"*Majority required*

Rule 47

1. [The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by [a simple majority vote] [a two-thirds majority vote] of the Parties present and voting, [except for decisions taken under article 21 [and article 22, paragraph 2(g)] of the Convention which shall be agreed upon by consensus, or] [unless otherwise provided by

(a) The Convention;

(b) The financial rules referred to in article 22, paragraph 2(e) of the Convention; or

(c) The present rules of procedure.]]"

UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(3)/14
1 October 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Third session
Recife, 15-26 November 1999
Item 9(c) of the provisional agenda

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MAINTENANCE OF THE ROSTER OF EXPERTS

Note by the secretariat

1. Article 24, paragraph 2 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) provides that: "The Conference of the Parties shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields. The roster shall be based on nominations received in writing from the Parties, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach and broad geographical representation."

2. By decisions 18/COP.1 and 13/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided to establish and maintain a roster of independent experts on the basis of the procedures attached to decision 18/COP.1.

3. In accordance with decision 19/COP.1, the secretariat requested Parties to supplement their submissions to the roster of independent experts (ICCD/COP(1)/6/Add.1) to ensure that under-represented areas are addressed in the roster, in particular by:

(a) Making the roster more balanced in terms of gender equity;

(b) Ensuring better representation of relevant disciplines, particularly in the areas of anthropology and sociology, health sciences, legislation, microbiology and trade; and

(c) Increasing representation of experts from non-governmental and international organizations.

4. The COP requested the secretariat to ensure that the roster be made available in electronic form, as well as through the regular channels of the United Nations system, for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information. The ecretariat has accordingly placed the roster on its web site at <http:\\www.unccd.de> together with a dynamic search facility. It has in addition prepared a CD-ROM for distribution to those Parties which do not have access, or practical access, to the web site of the secretariat.

5. The roster, containing nominations received up to 31 August 1999, is to be found in document ICCD/COP(3)/14/Add.1, annex I. Revisions and updates to the roster received by the secretariat through diplomatic channels by 15 October 1999 will be displayed in the above-mentioned web site. These and new revisions and changes will be reflected in future editions of the roster.

6. In accordance with article 24, paragraph 2 of the Convention and decision 18/COP.1, the selection of experts to be included on the roster is based on nominations received in writing from the Parties through diplomatic channels, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach, an appropriate gender balance, broad and equitable geographical representation, and expertise and experience in fields relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. Decision 18/COP.1 also requires that the roster reflect the diversity of knowledge and skills needed to provide advice on combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, taking into account the integrated approach of the Convention and expertise from grass-roots organizations and non-governmental organizations.

7. In preparing to compile the list of nominations, the secretariat developed a format for curricula vitae together with an indicative list of disciplines (ICCD/COP(1)/6/Add.1, annex II, as updated in document ICCD/COP(3)/14/Add.1, annex II). Document ICCD/COP(3)/14/Add.1, annex I, extracts the country of submission, name, gender, institution and major disciplines of experience or expertise of the nominees, while annex III contains an indicative list of disciplines and annex IV reflects the general characteristics of the roster.

8. The roster shows that:

(a) The list comprises 1,371 experts;

(b) Experts are nominated by 61 Parties;

(c) Of the 61 Parties, 23 submitted in excess of 20 nominations each, namely, Algeria, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain and Turkey;

(d) Adequate representation is lacking (i.e. less than 2 per cent) from the following disciplines: legislation, biology, health sciences and trade; and

(e) There are 1,189 men and 182 women. Men thus represent 87 per cent and women 13 per cent of the experts listed.

9. Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Convention and the procedures for the establishment and maintenance of the roster of independent experts, the COP may wish to consider any recommendations from the Committee on Science and Technology regarding the development of the roster, including possible guidance to the secretariat as to steps to be undertaken to achieve further balance in terms of geographical distribution, disciplines and gender representation.

- - - - -